

138. ***Stelis calyptrata*** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *calyptratus*, "calpytrate," referring to the sepaline cup filled with the central apparatus (the petals, column and lip).

Planta parva caespitosa, racemo subflexuoso multifloro foliis angustissime ellipticis brevioribus, floris minutissimis, sepalis late ovatis minutissime pubescentibus, petalis trinervis transversis, et labello apice rotundo apiculato distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2-2.5 cm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly linear-elliptic, acute, 3-5 cm long, 3 mm wide, gradually narrowed below to the base. **Inflorescence** an erect, subax, subflexuous, simultaneously several- to many-flowered raceme to 3.5 cm long including the peduncle ca. 5 mm long, from below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 1-1.5 mm long; pedicels 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; flowers minute, yellow; **sepals** glabrous externally, microscopically short-pubescent within, broadly ovate, obtuse, incompletely 3-veined, connate to near the middle into a cup filled with the central apparatus, the dorsal sepal 1 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, the lateral sepals 0.9 mm long, 1 mm wide; **petals** transversely ovate, shallowly concave, the apex thickened along the margin of the broadly rounded apex, 0.6 mm long, 1 mm wide, faintly 3-veined; **lip** thick, subdiscoid, 0.6 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 0.3 mm deep, the apex broadly rounded, minutely apiculate, convex medially with a longitudinal glenion, the base pubescent, truncate, hinged to the obsolescent column-foot; **column** stout, 0.75 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, with the anther and minute, bilobed stigma apical.

Napo: Bermejo Oil Fields, north of Lumbacui, alt. 850 m, 9 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores & A. Embree 11725 (Holotype: MO).

This small species from lowland eastern Ecuador is characterized by densely caespitose ramicauls and narrowly linear leaves that bear shorter subflexuous racemes. The flowers are among the tiniest of the genus. The sepals appear to be single-veined, but accompanying veins are seen at the base. The sepals are connate into a broad and deep cup that is filled with the transverse petals, column, and lip. The petals are faintly three-veined. The lip is discoid and apiculate, reminiscent of *S. guianensis* and *S. argentata*.

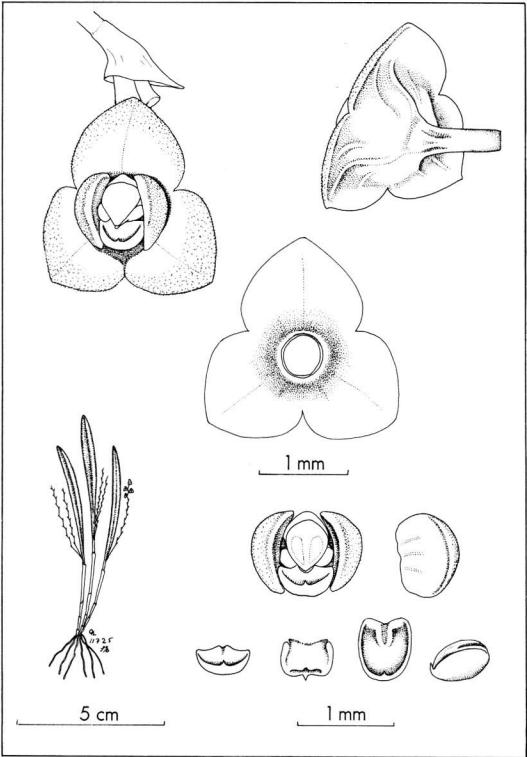


Fig. 138. *Stelis calyptrata*