

141. **Stelis cavernosa** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *cavernosus*, "cavernous," referring to the lip.

Species haec *S. lindenii* Lindl. affinis, sed racemo ad basim bracteoso et labelli glenio grandi profundo cum basi descendenti differt.

**Plant** large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, stout, 12-13 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath above the middle and another 2 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, obtuse, petiolate, 10-14 cm long including the petiole 1.5-2 cm long, the blade 3-4.5 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, strict, congested, distichous, many-flowered raceme with several flowers open simultaneously, 18-22 cm long including the peduncle 4-5 cm long, with a spathe 1.5-2 cm long, at an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts conspicuous, oblique, acute, 6 mm long below, 4 mm long above; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** similar, fleshy, glabrous externally, cellular-glandular within, light green, transversely ovate, broadly obtuse, connate to near the middle, the dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 5 mm wide, 5-veined, the lateral sepals 3.8 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 5-veined; **petals** green, transversely ovate, 1.1 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, 3-veined, with the apex broadly rounded and thickened, concave basally below a transverse thickening; **lip** green, thickly subquadrate, the apex broadly rounded with a thick margin, 1.2 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 0.75 mm deep, the anterior surface concave with a large, deeply concave glenion, the dorsum shallowly concave, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1.25 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Zamora-Chinchipe**: new road between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2250 m, 22 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 13583 (Holotype: MO).

**Morona-Santiago**: Cordillera del Condor, east of Chuchumbletza, alt. 1650 m, 21 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 13524 (MO).

This uncommon species is closely allied to the host of variations and relatives of the frequent *S. lindenii*. From them it is distinguished by large floral bracts that begin near the base, and by the lip. The glenion is deep and large, occupying much of the anterior surface of the bar, and the dorsum of the lip slopes downward without a significant callus.

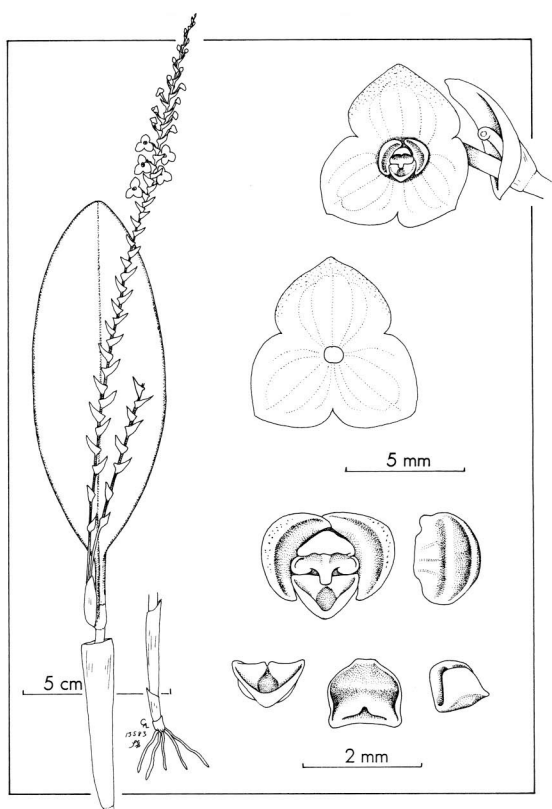


Fig. 141. *Stelis cavernosa*