

142. *Stelis ciliatissima* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

From the Latin *ciliatissimus*, "very ciliate," referring to the densely ciliate petals and lip.

Planta perparva racemis pluribus multifloris folio elliptico duplongioribus, sepalis latissime ovatis obtusis, petalis uninervis flabellatis densissime ciliatis, et labello ovoideo obtuso, dense ciliatis callo dorsali cum glenione grandi continuo distinguuntur.

**Plant** very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 4-5 mm long, enclosed by a 2 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, petiolate, 15-20 mm long including the petiole ca. 5 mm long, the blade 4-5 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** 2-5 erect, subflexuous, distichous, many-flowered racemes, with few flowers open simultaneously, 20-35 mm long including the peduncle 15-20 mm long; floral bracts oblique, acute, 1 mm long; pedicels 0.6 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** dull white, glabrous externally, connate below but near the middle, broadly ovate, obtuse, the dorsal sepal 1.5 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals oblique, 1.2 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; **petals** purple, flabellate-semiorbicular, broadly rounded, 0.5 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 1-veined, minutely spiculate-pubescent with the margin densely ciliate, concave at the base; **lip** purple, ovoid, cellular-pubescent, the broadly rounded margin densely ciliate-pubescent, 0.5 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, shallowly concave anteriorly, the bar protuberant on either side of the glenion, the dorsum with a rounded callus, the base hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Pastaza**: roadside forest south of Puyo toward Macas, alt. 900 m, 28 Feb. 2001, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 19560* (Holotype: MO); Río Negro between Baños and Puyo, alt. 1200 m, 6 Mar. 1963, *C.H. Dodson & L.B. Thien 2331* (SEL).

This tiny species is characterized by a few hair-like, flexuous racemes with minute flowers that eventually exceed the elliptical leaf. The sepals are broadly ovate and obtuse. The petals are single-veined and flabellate with the rounded margin minutely but very densely ciliate-pubescent. The tiny lip is broadly rounded and also densely ciliate-pubescent, especially on the margin.

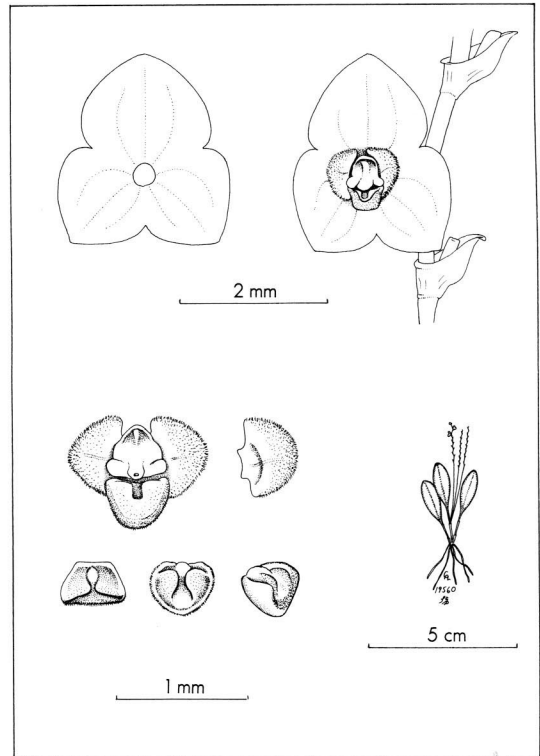


Fig. 142. *Stelis ciliatissima*