

143. *Stelis ciliolata* Luer & Dalström, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *ciliolatus*, "ciliate," referring to the sepals.

Species haec *S. argentatae* Lindl. similis, sed sepalis glabris marginibus marginatis ciliatisque, et labelli glenione bene marginato differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, stout, 2.5-4 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath from below the middle and 2-3 others at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 5-12 cm long including the petiole 1-4 cm long, the blade 1-3.2 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** 1-3 erect or suberect, subdense, distichous, several-flowered racemes with most flowers open simultaneously, 5-11 cm long including the peduncle 2-4 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, dilated, 4 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; **sepals** expanded, purple to creamy white, suffused with rose centrally, with narrowly thickened margins ciliate, connate basally, broadly ovate, obtuse, the dorsal sepal 4.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 5-veined, the lateral sepals 4 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** transversely cuneate-obovate, shallowly concave, 1-1.25 mm long, 1.8-2.25 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex broadly rounded with the margin thickened; **lip** thick, transversely subquadrate, 1 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, 0.6 mm deep, concave inside a thin, minutely apiculate, apical margin, the the bar with a protruding, small but well-defined glenion, the dorsum flat, gelatinous when living, the base broadly truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Zamora-Chinchipe: between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2000-2400 m, 4 Mar. 1990, *S. Dalström & L. Årnby 1441* (Holotype: MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 20474; east of the pass east of Loja, near Km. 41, alt. ca. 1500 m, 3 Nov. 1982, flowered in cultivation at SEL, 12 May 1983, *C. Luer 9064* (SEL); Cordillera del Condor, east of Los Encuentros, alt. 1550 m, 18 May 1988, *C. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 13446* (MO).

Loja: above Vilcabamba, alt. 2000-2400 m, May 1985, *D. D'Alessandro 358* (MO).

This species, apparently endemic in southeastern Ecuador, is superficially similar to *S. argentata*. It is characterized by broad, thickly coriaceous leaves with shorter, stout ramicauls, and shorter racemes. Large floral bracts enclose the short pedicels and the ovaries. The sepals are broadly ovate with thickened, ciliated margins. The margin of the lip is similarly apiculate, and the dorsum is flat.

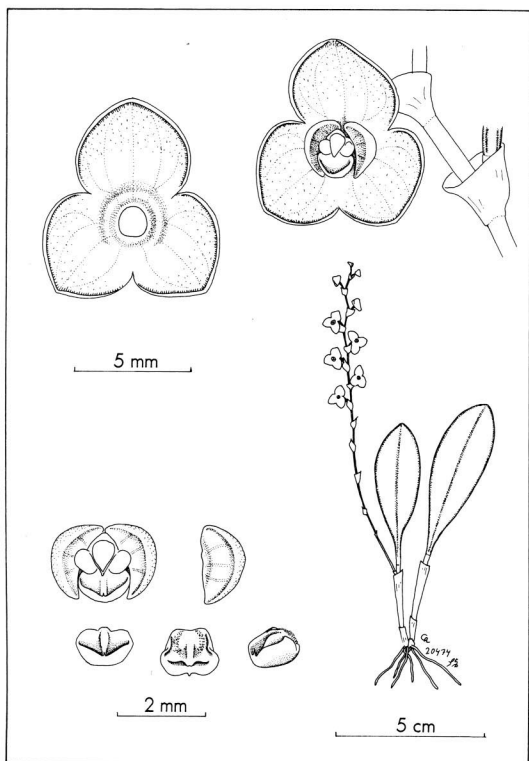


Fig. 143. *Stelis ciliolata*