

145. *Stelis clusaris* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *clusaris*, "closing easily," referring to the flowers.

Species haec *S. lindenii* Lindl. similis, sed ramicauli proportione brevior, racemo congesto e basi multifloro foliis anguste obovatis subsessilibus leviter longiore, et sepalis trinervis differt.

Plant large, epiphytic, the rhizome stout, ascending, shortly repent; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, stout, 4-6 cm long, enclosed by a loose, tubular sheath 2 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-obovate, subacute to obtuse, 10-14 cm long, 1.7-2.5 cm wide, narrowed below into an indistinct petiole ca. 1 cm long. **Inflorescence** 1-2 strict, erect, congested, secund, many-flowered racemes with many flowers open simultaneously, but closing if disturbed, facing one side, 15-20 cm long including a peduncle 1.5-3 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul, with a spathe 8 mm long; floral bracts infundibular, oblique, acute, imbricating from below the middle, 4-6 mm long; pedicels 1.5-2 mm long; ovary 1.5-2 mm long; **sepals** yellow-green, fleshy, glabrous externally, minutely diffusely papillose within, broadly ovate, obtuse, connate below the middle, the dorsal sepal 2.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals 2 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** transversely ovate, the apex broadly rounded, thick, concave, with an indistinct transverse callus, 0.75 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** thick, subquadrate, the apex round with a thick margin, 0.8 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, 0.6 mm deep, the bar thick with a distinct glenion that extends onto the dorsum with a broad, low callus, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Morona-Santiago: Chiviasa, east of Limón, alt. 1300 m, 23 Oct. 1999, A. Hirtz, E. Sánchez & S. Marin 7034 (Holotype: MO); near Gualaquiza, collected in 1976, flowered in cultivation at SEL, 17 June 1981, C. Luer 6332 (SEL).

Zamora-Chinchipec: Cordillera del Condor, west of Paquisha, alt. 850 m, 19 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 11923 (MO); along Río Zamora, west of Zamora, alt. 950 m, 20 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 11948 (MO).

This species of southeastern Ecuador is closely related to *S. lindenii* Lindl., but it is distinguished from the latter by a ramicaul that is distinctly shorter than the narrowly obovate, subsessile leaves, and racemes that flower from near the base. The crowded, secund racemes of the two species with small, sensitive flowers are extremely similar. The sepals of *S. clusaris* are three-veined instead of five-veined.

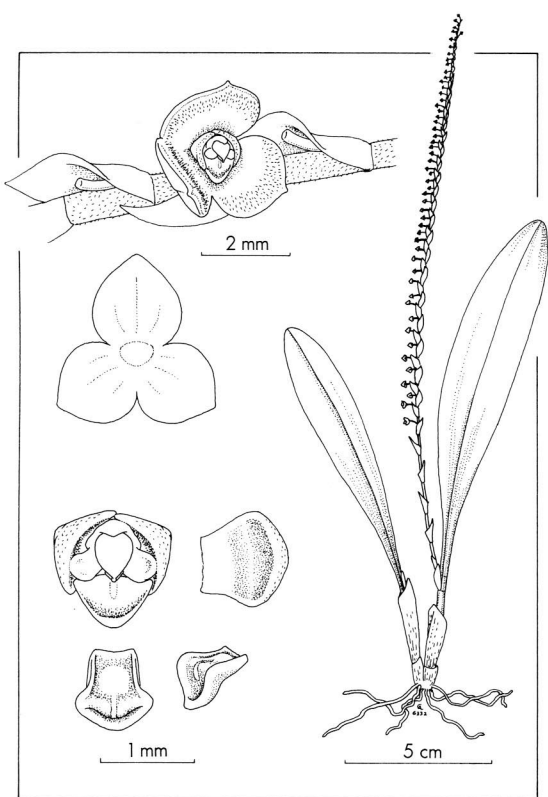


Fig. 145. *Stelis clusaris*