

146. **Stelis condorensis** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for the Cordillera del Condor where this species was collected.

Planta grandis, racemis paucis multifloris foliis ellipticis petiolatis longioribus, sepalo dorsali anguste ovato, lateralibus ovatis obliquis infra medium connatis, petalis obovatis concavis, et labelli dorso unicalloso ad basim protracto distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 8-13 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath below the middle, and 2-3 above the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, petiolate, 9-12 cm long including a petiole 1.5-2 cm long, the blade 1.2-2.5 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** 2-3 erect, lax, distichous, many-flowered racemes, with many flowers open simultaneously, up to 22 cm long including the peduncle ca. 2 cm long, with a spathe 1-1.5 cm long; floral bracts tubular, obtuse, 3 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; flowers green, **sepals** glabrous, with sides more or less revolute, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, narrowly obtuse or subacute, 4 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined, connate basally to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals ovate-triangular, acute, connate to near the middle, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** broadly obovate, concave, with the apex broadly rounded, the margin thickened externally, 0.8 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** obovoid, 0.8 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, concave anteriorly with the rounded apex thickened, the bar with protruding edges on either side of a small glenion, the dorsum concave with a single, erect, rounded callus, the base elongated, truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical, the foot obsolescent.

Zamora-Chinchipe: Cordillera del Condor, east of Los Encuentros, alt. 1550 m, 18 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13460 (Holotype: MO).

This species from the Cordillera del Condor is characterized by a large, caespitose habit with ramicauls longer than relatively long-petiolate, elliptical leaves. Two or three, sublux, many-flowered racemes exceed the leaf. The dorsal sepal is narrowly ovate, and the lateral sepals are connate to near the middle constricting the central apparatus between convex inner surfaces. The concave petals are consequently crowded, partially covering the stigmas, and without any part of the internal surface visible. A single, erect, rounded callus is present on the dorsum with the base behind it elongated.

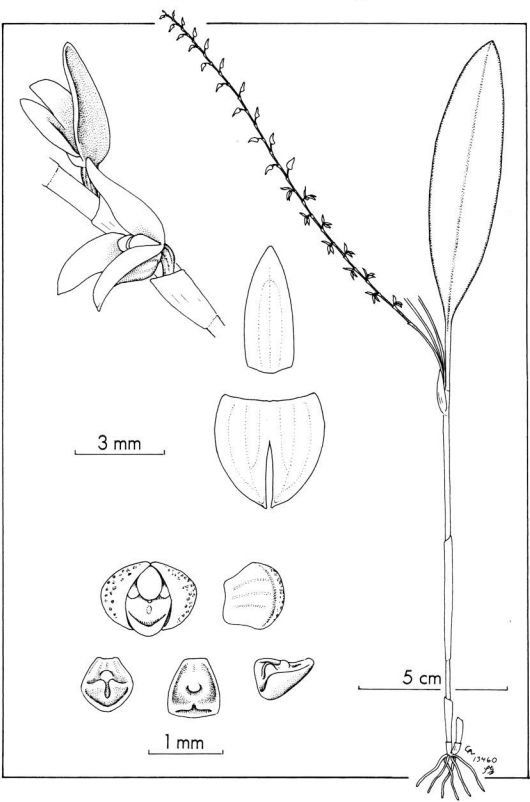


Fig. 146. *Stelis condorensis*