

147. **Stelis coronaria** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *coronarius*, "with a crown," referring to the rim around the central apparatus.

Planta mediocris ascendens-caespitosa, racemo multifloro congesto disticho foliis tenuibus longiore, floribus parvis brevipedicillatis, sepalis latissime ovatis cum corona concava centrali, petalis crescentiformibus et labello minute apiculato distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, densely caespitose-ascending; roots slender. Ramicauls erect slender, 6-9 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath on the middle third and another 1-2 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, petiolate, 8-11 cm long, 1-1.2 cm wide, cuneate below into the 1.5 cm long petiole. **Inflorescence** a strict, erect, congested, distichous, simultaneously many-flowered raceme with most flowers open simultaneously, 10-15 cm long including a peduncle ca. 1.5 cm long, the flowers opposite-facing, with a spathe 6-7 mm long, from the annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts short, tubular, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; flowers rose; **sepals** expanded, broadly ovate, obtuse to rounded at the apex, connate to near the middle, with a circular, elevated ridge across the lower third surrounding the central apparatus, glabrous within the circle, short-pubescent above the circle, the hairs capitate, the dorsal sepal 2.5 mm long, 2.8 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals 2 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** crescentiform, the apex broadly rounded with a thick, flattened margin, concave basally below a transverse callus, 0.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** thick, subquadrate, 0.3 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, 0.6 mm deep, the apical third concave with a round, minutely apiculate margin, the bar thick, filling the lip, with a narrow glenion, the base villous-pubescent, truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.75 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Carchi: forest between Maldonado and Chical, alt. 1500 m, 15 Jan. 1992, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. & P. Jesup 16020 (Holotype: MO).

Cotopaxi: Macuchi, between Quevedo and Latacunga, alt. 1600 m, 1 May 1968, G. Harling, G. Storm & B. Ström 8827 (GB).

This species from northwesternmost Ecuador is characterized by an ascending, thickly caespitose habit. The leaves are thinly coriaceous and narrowly elliptical. The slim, congested raceme of numerous small, short-pedicellate flowers exceeds the leaf. The sepals are broadly ovate, broadly obtuse and connate to near the middle with a ciliate, circular ridge enclosing the basal third around the petals, column and lip. Within the circle they are glabrous, while short-pubescent beyond the circle with capitate hairs. The petals are crescent-shaped, and the apex of the lip is round with a minute apiculum.

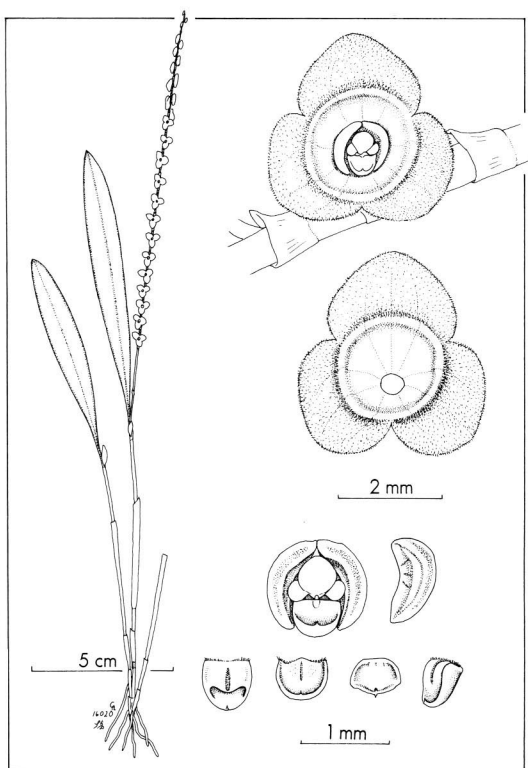


Fig. 147. *Stelis coronaria*