

150. **Stelis decurva** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *decurvus*, "turned downward," referring to the flowers.

Planta parva caespitosa, racemo disticho multifloro foliis anguste ellipticis longiore, sepalis ovatis intus pubescentibus, petalis cuneatis uninervis, et labello oblongo supra medium concavo infra medium calloso pubescenti distinguitur.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 1.5-2.5 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath and another 1 or 2 at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, subacute to acute, indistinctly petiolate, 4-5.5 cm long including a petiole ca. 1 cm long, the blade 0.6-0.8 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a distichous, subraceme, successively many-flowered raceme 6-9 cm long including the peduncle 2-3 cm long, with several flowers open simultaneously, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 3 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** yellow, expanded beyond the base, connate basally nearly 1 mm, glabrous externally, pubescent within, ovate, obtuse, 3-veined, the dorsal sepal 2.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the lateral sepals 2 mm long, 2 mm wide; **petals** yellow, cuneate, concave, broadly truncate at the apex with the edge thickened, 1.3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** brown, oblong, 1.6 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, concave above the middle with the apical margin rounded, thickly callous below the middle, with a glenion on the anterior surface, the base pubescent, truncate, hinged to the obsolescent column-foot; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, with the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Loja:** forest above Jimbura, alt. 3350 m, 21 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & J. Kuijt 9646 (Holotype: MO).

This species from southernmost Ecuador is characterized by the densely caespitose habit; narrowly elliptical leaves longer than the ramicauls; and a successively flowered, distichous raceme. The pedicels are short and deep within the floral bract. The ovary curves abruptly so that all flowers face downward. The sepals are ovate and pubescent; the petals are cuneate and single-veined; and the lip is oblong, concave above the middle and thickly callous below the middle.

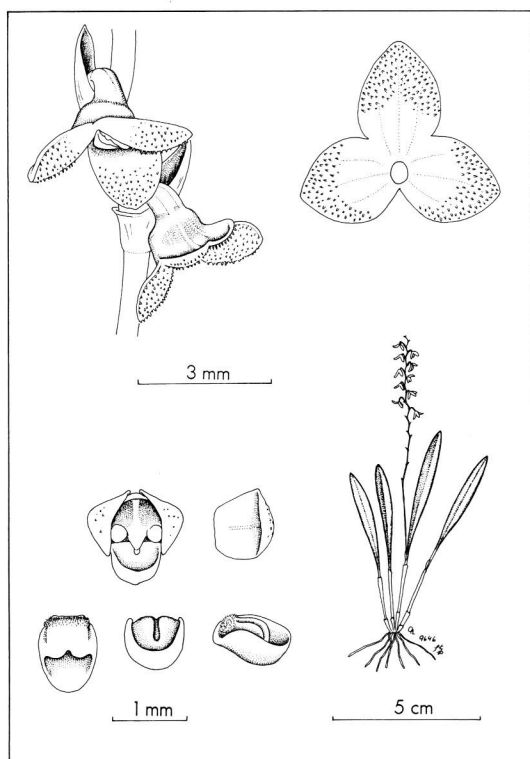


Fig. 150. *Stelis decurva*