

109. **Stelis delhierroi** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Juan del Hierro of Quito, co-collector of this species.

Planta parva caespitosa, racemo flexuoso successivi- plurifloro folio elliptico petiolato bis vel ter longiore, sepalis lateralibus in synsepalum infra medium concavum supra medium convexum connatis, labello subquadrato apice late rotundo disco unicalloso distinguitur.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, comparatively stout, 5-10 mm long, enclosed by 2 loose, ribbed, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, petiolate, 20-25 mm long including the petiole 5-7 mm long, the blade 6-9 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect or suberect, lax, flexible, flexuous, successively several-flowered raceme, with only 1 flower open at a time, up to 8 cm long or longer including the peduncle 2-3 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 2 mm long; pedicels 2.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** glabrous externally, cellular within, the dorsal sepal rose, convex with the sides recurved, broadly ovate, obtuse, connate basally 1 mm, 11 mm long, 7 mm wide expanded, 7-veined (incompletely), the lateral sepals yellow-green, connate above the middle into a synsepal concave below the middle, convex above the middle, 11 mm long, 8 mm wide expanded, 8-veined, the apex obtuse, split for 3 mm; **petals** dark purple, semilunate, 1 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex broadly rounded, concave below the thickened margin, concave basally below a transverse callus; **lip** dark purple, subquadrate, 0.5 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, 0.75 mm deep, shallowly concave above the broadly rounded apex with a thickened margin, the bar with a very small glenion terminating a rounded callus on the dorsum, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, less than 1 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the anther and the stigma apical, the foot obsolescent.

**Imbabura:** forest southeast of Lita, alt. 1200 m, 11 Jan. 1992, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, J. del Hierro et al. 15550 (Holotype: MO).

This species, known only from northwestern Ecuador, is characterized by a small habit with elliptical leaves that are far surpassed by a loose, flexuous raceme that produces one, proportionately large flower successively. The sides of the dorsal sepal are recurved, and the synsepal is concave below the middle and convex above with recurving sides. The petals are semilunate; the lip is shallowly concave with a broadly rounded apex and a single, rounded callus on the dorsum.

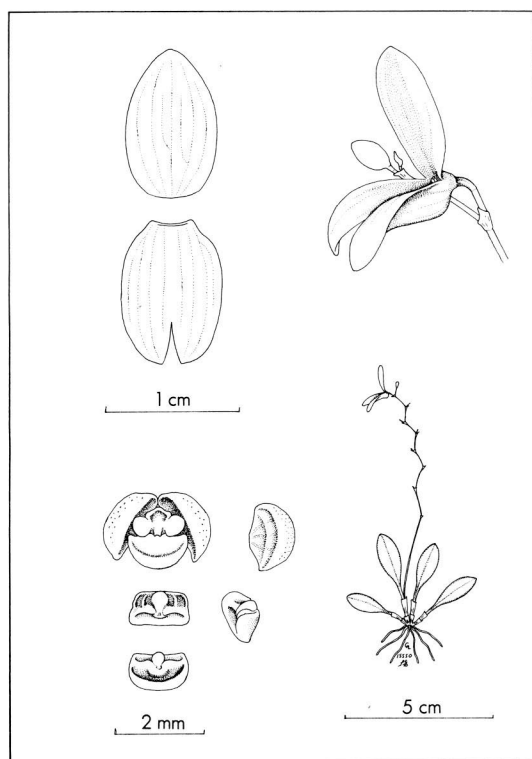


Fig. 109. *Stelis delhierroi*