

154. **Stelis exacta** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *exactus*, "exact, precise," referring to the arrangement of the flowers.

Species haec *S. spathulatae* Poepp. & Endl. affinis, sed foliis oblongis latioribus, racemo stricto secundo exacto, sepalis ovatis convexis, labello brevior differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, ascending-caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls fasciculate, erect, slender, 1.5-2.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, oblong, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 3-4.5 cm long including a petiole 0.5-0.8 cm long, 0.9-1.2 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, dense, distichous, secund, many-flowered raceme, with most flowers open simultaneously, precisely arranged alternately, 5-8 cm long including the peduncle ca. 1.5 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts infundibular, oblique, acute, 3-3.5 mm long, imbricating, enclosing the pedicels and ovaries; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1.25 mm long; **sepals** expanded, similar, yellow, glabrous, connate basally, ovate, acute, 1.75 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** yellow, cuneate-obovate, shallowly concave, 0.6 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 1-veined, the apex concave, truncate, thickened externally; **lip** yellow, subtriangular, 0.3 mm long excluding the apiculum, 0.5 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, the lateral margins obtusely angled, the apex abruptly narrowly triangular, the bar with a concave glenion anteriorly, the apex thick, longacuminate, the dorsum shortly pubescent, truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

ECUADOR: **Azuay**: west slope of the Cordillera del Molleturo, above Río Shurimal, alt. 1100 m, 27 Jan. 1992, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, A. & P. Jesup 16187 (Holotype: MO).

This little species, apparently rare in southwestern, coastal Ecuador, is closely related to the common and widely distributed *S. spathulata*. It differs from the latter with broader, oblong leaves, and a densely flowered raceme with all the flowers facing one side in alternating positions from long floral bracts that are out of sight behind. The flowers are equally minute with equal, ovate sepals; similar single-veined petals; and a similar, apiculate lip except that the body of the lip is shorter and deeper.

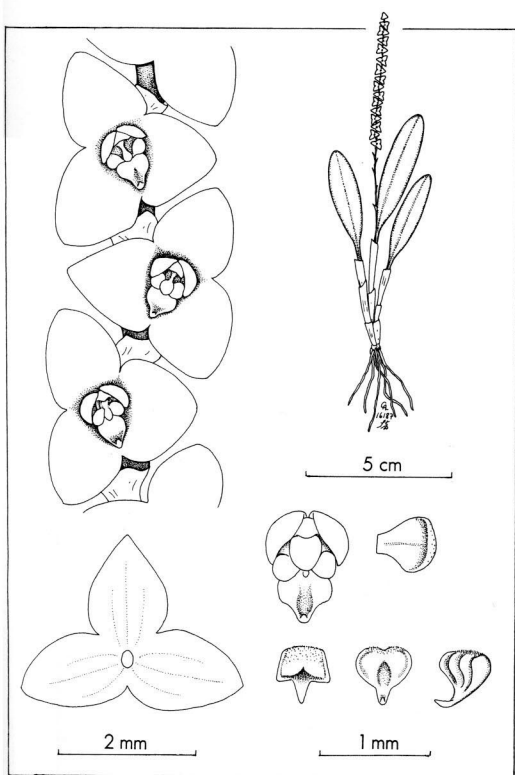


Fig. 154. *Stelis exacta*