

155. **Stelis fabulosa** Luer & Endara, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *fabulosus*, "fabulous," referring to the most unusual inflorescence.

Species haec *S. tridactyloni* Luer similis, sed sepalis lateralibus 180° divergentibus et labello ad apicem obtuso apiculato, ad medium tricanaliculata, et ad basim transverse calloso differt.

Plant large, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls stout, erect, 10-18 cm long, the middle third enclosed by a long, loose, tubular sheath, and another 2 tubular sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-oblong, obtuse to subacute, 12-15 cm long, 2-2.75 cm wide, cuneate below into a subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** an erect, distichous, subdensely many-flowered raceme, with most flowers open simultaneously, precisely arranged alternately, 20-30 cm long including the peduncle 8-10 cm long, from a spathe 2-2.5 cm long, below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, 3-5 mm long; pedicels 2.5-3 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; flowers yellow to yellow-brown; **sepals** similar, sparse-

ly cellular-pubescent, oblong-ovate, subacute, connate basally into a cup, the dorsal sepal 8 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals diverging 180° , 8 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** cuneate-obovate, 0.6 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 3-veined, shallowly concave, minimally thickened, the apex broadly rounded; **lip** subquadrate-triangular, 1 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, 0.6 mm deep, the apex obtuse, minutely apiculate, the bar with a rounded, central callus and channeled to either side, the callus with a midline channel, the dorsum with a low, transverse, shortly pubescent callus, truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and elongate stigmatic lobes apical.

Loja: west of the pass west of Loja, alt. 2800 m, 7 Mar. 1977, *C. Luer, J. Luer & K. Cordoba 1559* (Holotype: SEL); same area, alt. 2700 m, 14 Feb. 1985, *G. Harling & L. Andersson 22049* (AMES, GB); east of Nudo de Cajanuma, alt. 2900 m, 21 Oct. 1989, *A. Bøgh 86572* (AAU, LOJA); Saraguro, *G.P. Lewis 3115* (K).

This large species, similar to *S. tridactylon*, is endemic in southern Ecuador. Produced in two opposite-facing ranks of three-pronged flowers on a long raceme, the narrowly oblong lateral sepals of the large flowers are expanded 180° . They are only slightly more deeply connate to the dorsal sepal than to each other.

