

110. **Stelis fortis** Luer & Dalström, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *fortis*, "vigorous, strong," referring to the habit.

Planta grandis longiproliferans, racemo elongato multifloro folio grandi late elliptico petiolato multilongiore, sepalis lateralibus in synsepalum ovoideum concavum connatis, petalis crassis, crescentibus, et labello subtriangulari apice obtuso glenio parvo, ad dorsum calloso distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, long-scandent; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, stout, 7-20 cm long, enclosed by a close, tubular sheath from below the middle and at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, petiolate, 8-14 cm long including the petiole 1-1.5 cm long, the blade 3-5 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect or suberect, lax, distichous, many-flowered raceme, with most flowers open simultaneously, up to 33 cm long or longer including the peduncle ca. 15 cm long, with a spathe ca. 1 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 10 mm long below to 6 mm long above; pedicels 3 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal pale purple, ovate, subacute, 10 mm long, 5 mm wide, with 5 primary veins plus 4 incomplete veins, connate basally to the synsepal for 2 mm, the lateral sepals greenish, connate to the apex into an ovoid, concave synsepal, deeply concave below the column and lip, 9 mm long, 7 mm wide unexpanded, 6-veined, the apex narrowly obtuse; **petals** thickly crescentiform, 1 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex broadly rounded with thick, flattened margins, concave basally below a transverse callus; **lip** subtriangular, 0.9 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, 0.75 mm deep, shallowly concave anteriorly with the apex obtuse with a thickened margin, the bar with a glenion, the dorsum with a broad callus, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the anther and bilobed stigma apical, the foot obsolescent.

Morona-Santiago: wet forest north of Gualaquiza, alt. 1800 m, 31 Jan. 1989, *S. Dalström & T. Höijer* 1212 (Holotype: MO), C Luer illustr. 20471.

This species, known only from a wet, mossy forest in southeastern Ecuador, is characterized by a long, climbing habit with long, stout ramicauls bearing long, stout ramicauls. The leaves are broadly elliptical, and far surpassed by a loose, multiflowered raceme. The dorsal sepal and concave synsepal are multiveined; the petals are crescentiform with a thickened margin; and the lip is obtuse with a glenion and a broad callus on the dorsum.

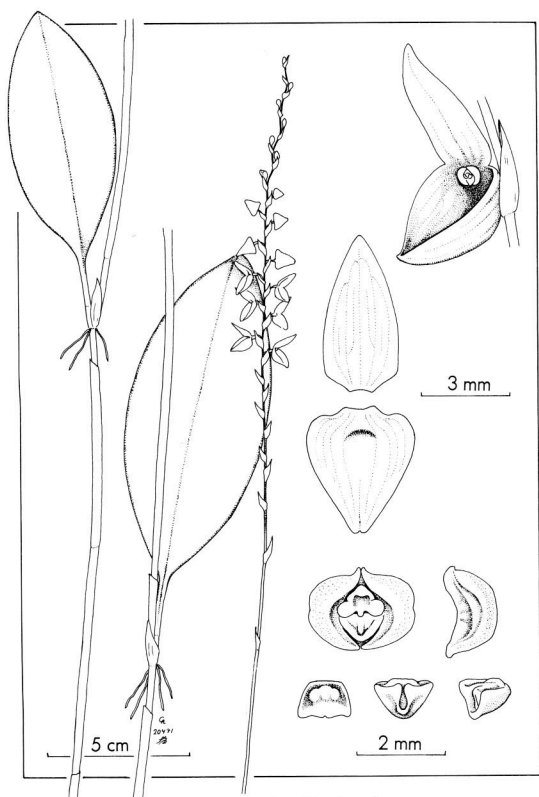


Fig. 110. *Stelis fortis*