

157. **Stelis glanduligera** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *glanduliger*, "gland bearing," referring to the cellular-glandular sepals.

Planta parva caespitosa, racemo plurifloro flexuoso foliis anguste ellipticis plus minusve aequali, sepalis ovatis obtusis glandulosis lateralibus expansis, petalis crassis spathulatis uninervis, et labello cymbiformi infra medium calloso distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 10-20 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, subacute to acute, indistinctly petiolate, 25-35 mm long including a petiole less than 10 mm long, 4-6 mm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, flexuous, subaxillary, simultaneously several-flowered raceme 2.5-3 cm long including the peduncle 1-2 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 2 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** rose, glabrous externally, cellular-glandular within, ovate, obtuse, 1.2 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined, connate basally, the lateral sepals diverging; **petals** dark rose, thickly spathulate, shallowly concave, broadly rounded at the apex, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** dark rose, oblong, 0.66 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 0.3 mm deep, concave anteriorly within the broadly obtuse, apical margin, the base cleft near the middle with a distinct glenion, the dorsum minutely pubescent above the base, the base truncate, hinged to the obsolescent column-foot; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, with the anther and bilobed stigma apical.

Azuay: east of Cuenca, above Cumbe, alt. 2800 m, 6 Mar. 2001, *C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, E. Sánchez & L. Suin 19755* (Holotype: MO); south of Cumbe, alt. 3200 m, 5 Feb. 1977, *G. Harling, U. Eliasson & L. Andersson 15082* (AMES, GB).

Carchi: terrestrial in scrub forest north of El Playón, alt. 3100 m, 20 Mar. 1991, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 15193* (MO).

This small species, found at high altitudes in both northern and southern Ecuador, is characterized by a caespitose habit, and thick, narrowly elliptical leaves that are more or less equalled by a loose, few-flowered raceme of very small flowers. The sepals are ovate and minutely cellular-glandular within; the petals are thick, spatulate and single-veined; and the lip is oblong, concave above the bar, and minutely pubescent above the base.

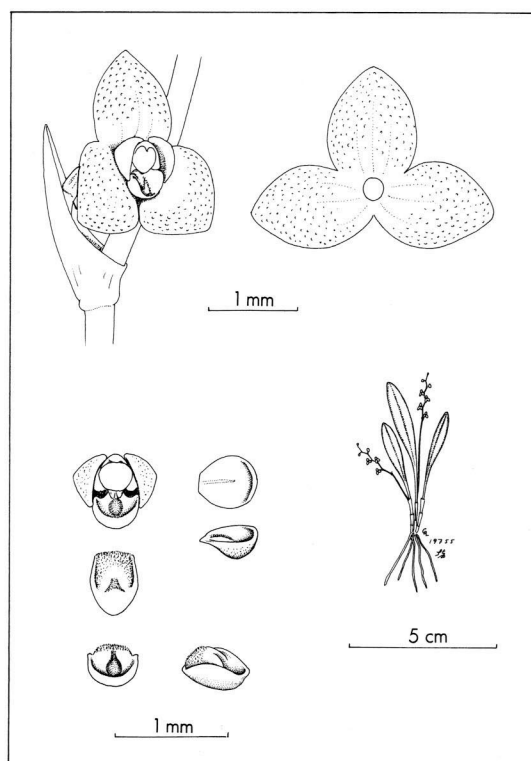


Fig. 157. *Stelis glanduligera*