

111. **Stelis humboldtina** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: A diminutive of the generic name *Humboldtia*, referring to the small habit.

Inter species sectionis *Humboldtiae* habitu perparvo, racemo laxe paucifloro foliis ellipticis duplo-longiore, sepalis petalisque non-distinctis.

**Plant** very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 5-6 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 20-25 mm long including a slender petiole 5-7 mm long, the blade 5-8 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, lax, distichous, nearly simultaneous, few-flowered raceme, 4-5 cm long including the peduncle 2-3 cm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 2.5-3 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal rose, ovate, subacute, 6 mm long, 5 mm wide, 5-veined, connate basally to the synsepal, the lateral sepals yellow, connate into an ovoid, obtuse, concave synsepal, 5 mm long, 5 mm wide, unexpanded, 6-veined; **petals** purple, transversely ovate, shallowly concave within the broadly obtuse, thickened apex, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined across a low, transverse callus; **lip** purple, thickly subtriangular, shallowly concave and broadly rounded at the apex with a slightly thickened margin, 0.5 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, 0.6 mm deep, the bar shallowly notched, the dorsum with a round, central callus, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Morona-Santiago:** along the new road west of Macas toward Guamote, alt. 1500 m, 6 Feb. 1987, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 12713 (Holotype: MO).

This species is vegetatively small for section *Humboldtia*, but the flowers are proportionately large. Three or four flowers are borne nearly simultaneously in a loose raceme about twice as long as the little leaves. The flowers do not differ remarkably from the usual pattern seen in the section. The dorsal sepal is five-veined, the petals are transverse with a thickened margin and three-veined; and the lip is rounded and shallowly concave anteriorly with a round callus on the dorsum.

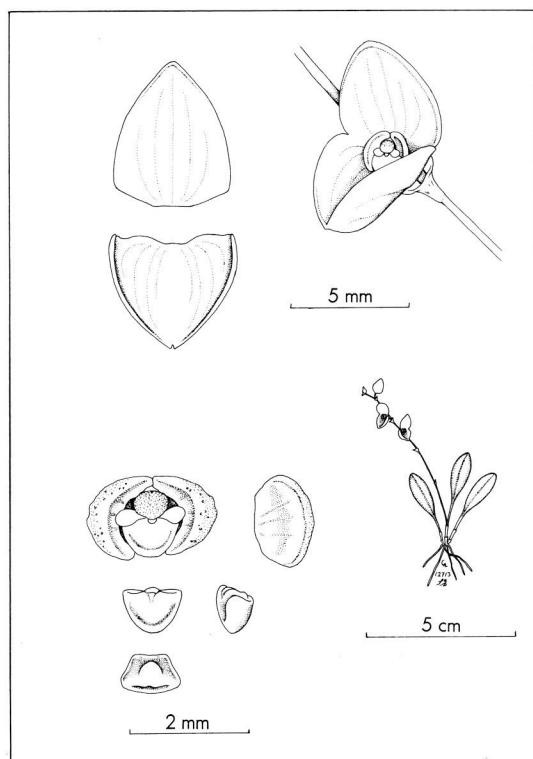


Fig. 111. *Stelis humboldtina*