

160. **Stelis imbricans** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *imbricans*, "overlapping," referring to the flowers in the raceme.

Species haec *S. congestae* Luer & Hirtz affinis, sed racemo secundo congestissimo con floribus imbricantibus, petalis labelloque proportione majoribus, et labelli apice non late incrassato distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3-6 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath and 2-3 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, subacute, 3-7 cm long including a petiole 1-1.5 cm long, the blade 0.7-1 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, very congested, secund, many-flowered raceme with many overlapping flowers facing the same direction open simultaneously, 5-7 cm long including the peduncle ca. 2 cm long, with a spathe 5 mm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 1 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** expanded, dark purple, glabrous externally, minutely pubescent within, broadly ovate, obtuse, convex, connate basally, the dorsal sepal 2 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** dark purple, transversely ovate, with the apex broadly rounded with a thick margin, shallowly concave above the base, slightly thickened across the middle, 0.8 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** dark purple, thick, subquadrate-triangular, 0.6 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, concave anteriorly with a long glenion, with the apex rounded with a thin margin, the dorsum with a rounded, pubescent callus, the base broadly truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.8 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the anther and the stigma apical, with the stigma bilobed, the foot obsolescent.

Bolívar: forest south of San Miguel toward Chillanes, alt. 2650 m, 25 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, S. Dalström, T. Höjjer & J. Kuijt 9696 (Holotype: MO).

This species is closely related to *S. congesta*, but it differs from the latter with a very congested raceme of overlapping flowers facing the same direction, shorter floral bracts, a proportionately larger central apparatus, and a shallowly concave lip with a thin margin.

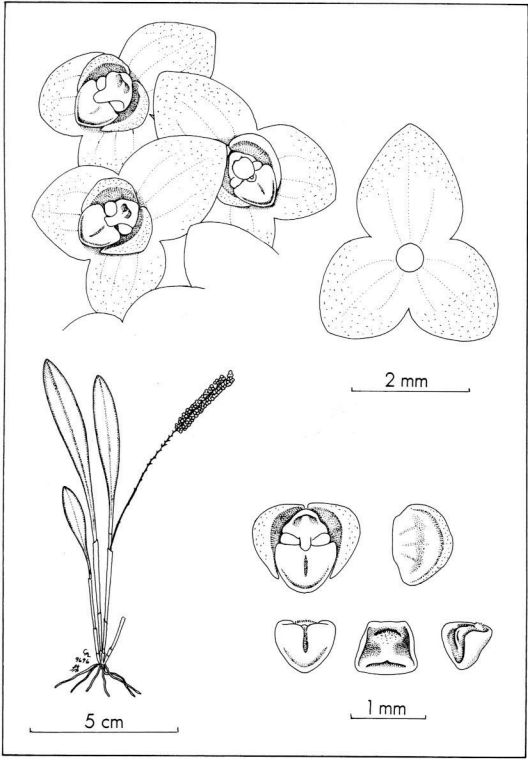


Fig. 160. *Stelis imbricans*