

163. *Stelis intonsa* Luer & Endara, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *intonsus*, "unshaven," referring to the pubescence of the column.

Planta parva caespitosa, racemis paucis paucifloris folio elliptico longioribus, sepalis late ovatis, petalis incrassatis minutissime pubescentibus transversis trinervis, labello discoideo supra medium rotundo minutissime pubescentibus infra medium longivillosis, et columna etiam minutissime pubescenti.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2-4 cm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths, and another at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, subacute to obtuse, 2.5-4 cm long including a petiole 5-8 mm long, the blade 0.7-1 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** 2-3 erect, somewhat arching above the middle, subcongested, several-flowered racemes, with few flowers open simultaneously, 6-9 cm long including a peduncle ca. 4 cm long, from below the apex of the ramicaul with a spathe ca. 5 mm long; floral bracts infundibular, oblique, acute, 2.5-3 mm long; pedicels 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; flowers "dark brownish purple," **sepals** glabrous externally, cellular-glandular within, ovate, obtuse, concave basally, connate below the middle, the dorsal sepal 2.5 mm long, 2.6 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals 2.3 mm long, 2.6 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** transversely ovate, concave below the thick, broadly obtuse, convex margin, 1 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** subdiscooid, 0.8 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, 1 mm deep, shallowly concave within the rounded apical margin, minutely pubescent within, the bar low with a broad, glabrous glenion, the dorsum long-villous with a low, rounded callus, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** microscopically pubescent, 1 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and lobes of the stigma apical.

Loja: south slope of Cerro Villonaco, between Loja and Catamayo, alt. 2700 m, 18 June 1979, B. Løjtnant, A. & U. Molau 15088 (Holotype: AAU; Isotype: GB), C. Luer illustr. 20512.

This small species of southern Ecuador is known only from the type-collection. The two or three several-flowered racemes are borne by equally long peduncles. The ovate sepals are connate basally into a shallow cup. The transverse petals are thick, minutely pubescent and three-veined. The lip is rounded a densely short-pubescent surrounding a large, flat, glabrous glenion, while the dorsum is long-villous. The apical portion of the column is shortly pubescent.

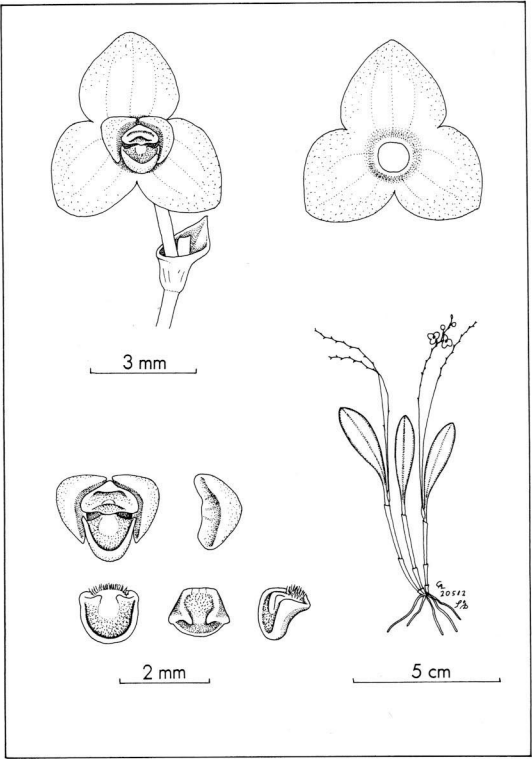


Fig. 163. *Stelis intonsa*