

164. **Stelis lanuginosa** Luer & Dalström, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *lanuginosus*, "woolly," referring to the pubescence of the sepals.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, racemo foliis anguste obovatis longiore, floribus parvis intus lanuginosis, sepalis ovatis lateralibus antrorsis, petalis parvis et labello subquadrato apice concavo triangulari acuto distinguitur.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2.5-6 cm long, enclosed by a loose, tubular sheath and 2-3 shorter sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, subacute, 6-9.5 cm long including an indistinct petiole ca. 1 cm long, the blade 0.9-1.2 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, congested, distichous, simultaneously many-flowered raceme, with most flowers open simultaneously, 9-10 cm long including the peduncle 2-3 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul with a spathe ca. 7 mm long; floral bracts narrowly oblique, acute, 4 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** dark purple with a long, white pubescence, glabrous externally, ovate, obtuse, similar, connate basally, the dorsal sepal 2.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals more or less antrorse, 2.25 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** purple, transversely ovate, shallowly concave, the apex broadly obtuse with a thickened margin, 0.75 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** purple, thickly subquadrate, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, 0.75 mm deep, concave anteriorly with thin margins, the apex triangular, acute, the bar thick, cleft anteriorly, the dorsum with an indistinct, low, central callus, the base broadly truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Tungurahua**: slopes of Volcán Tungurahua above Baños, alt. 3000 m, 27 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höjjer & J. Kuijt 9766 (Holotype: MO); same area, 6 Dec, 1984, A. Hirtz 2130 (MO).

**Sucumbios**: near Santa Barbara, alt. 2700 m, 13 Apr. 1979, B. Løjtnant, U. Molau & M. Madison 12371 (AAU, GB).

This species, known from the slopes of Volcán Tungurahua, is distinguished by a caespitose habit with narrowly obovate leaves borne by shorter ramicauls concealed by loose, tubular sheaths. The raceme, longer than the leaves, is congested with many small, dark purple flowers with a long, white pubescence within. The lip is concave anteriorly with a thin margin and an acute, triangular apex.

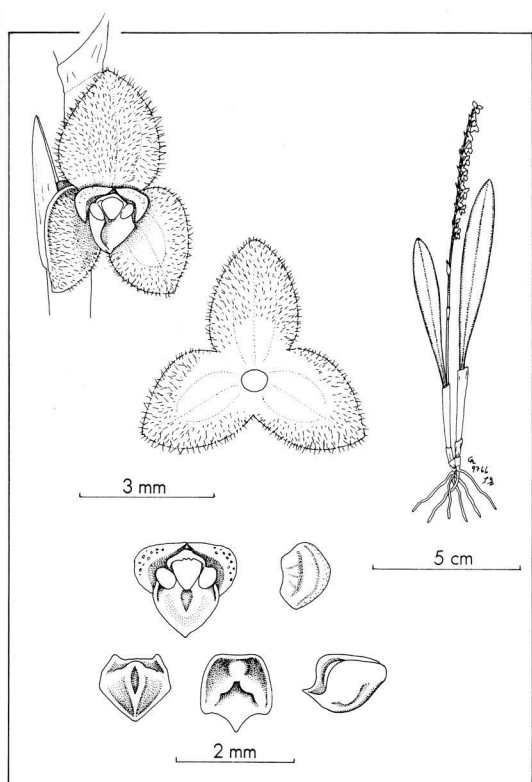


Fig. 164. *Stelis lanuginosa*