

165. **Stelis latimarginata** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *latimarginatus*, "with broad margin," referring to the margin of the lip.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, foliis purpureis crassis late ellipticis quam ramicauli multolongioribus, racemo elongato congesto multifloro grandebracteato, sepalis latissime ovatis, petalis semilunatis et labello apice rotundo margine latissimo dorsaliter concavo ecalloso distinguitur.

Plant robust but medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, stout, 3-4.5 cm long, enclosed by a loose, tubular sheath from below the middle and another sheath at the base. **Leaf** purple, erect, thickly coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 8-10 cm long including a petiole less than 1 cm long, the blade 2.5-3.5 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, strict, stout, congested, distichous many-flowered raceme, to more than 22 cm long including the peduncle ca. 8 cm long, with several flowers open simultaneously, from a spathe 1.2 mm long, below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts broadly infundibular, dilated, acute, 7 mm long below to 5 mm long above; pedicels 7 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; flowers purple, **sepals** glabrous, transversely ovate, broadly obtuse, connate to near the middle, the dorsal sepal 5 mm long, 6-7 mm wide, 7-veined, the lateral sepals oblique, 4.5 mm long, 5-7 mm wide, 5-veined; **petals** semilunate, 1.25 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex broadly rounded with a broad margin, overhanging a transverse callus, concave below the callus; **lip** semiorbicular, 0.5 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, 1.5 mm deep, the apex broadly rounded with the width of the margin approaching the height of the curved bar, the dorsum short, concave, without a callus, 5-veined, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.75 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Zamora-Chinche: Cordillera del Condor, east of Los Encuentros, alt. 1650 m, 18 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13441 (Holotype: MO).

This species with very broad sepals is related to *S. triplicata*. Vegetatively, it is distinct with broadly elliptical, thick, purple leaves with much shorter ramicauls. The large-bracted raceme far exceeds the leaf. This lip is most unusual with a broadly rounded apex with a broad margin extending nearly all the way to edge of the curved, featureless bar. The dorsum is short, but broad, concave and without a callus.

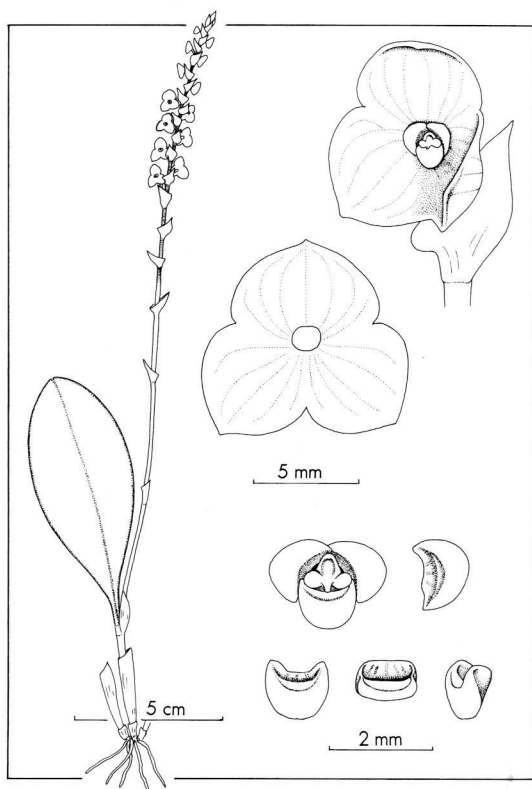


Fig. 165. *Stelis latimarginata*