

114. *Stelis luteola* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *luteolus*, "light yellow," referring to the flowers.

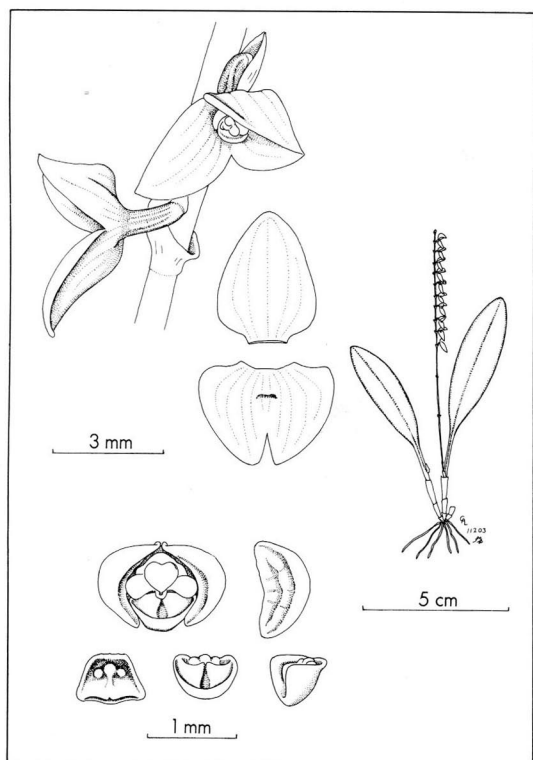
Inter species sectionis *Humboldtiae*, habitu parvo, racemo gracili congesto secundo folio elliptico longiore, floribus parvis luteolis, sepalo dorsali ovato quinque-nervato, petalis trinervatis et labello subquadrato apice late rotundo supra tricalloso distinguitur.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 1-2.5 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath, and another 1-2 at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 4-6.5 cm long including a petiole ca. 1 cm long, 1-1.5 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, congested, secund, nearly simultaneously many-flowered raceme, up to 8 cm long including the peduncle 2-3 cm long, with a spathe ca. 3 mm long, from below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 3 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; flowers yellow, bilabiate; **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal erect, ovate, obtuse, 3.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 5-veined, connate basally to the synsepal, the lateral sepals connate into an ovoid, concave synsepal, 2.75 mm long, 2.5 mm wide unexpanded, 3.5 mm wide expanded, 8-veined; **petals** transversely semilunate, concave, with the apex thickened, broadly obtuse, with a transverse callus, concave basally, 0.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** thickly subquadrate, rounded at the apex with the margin thickened, 0.5 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, the bar shallowly concave with a glenion, the dorsum shallowly concave with a transverse row of 3 calli, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Pastaza:** north of Mera, alt. 1350 m, *C. Luer 11203* (Holotype: MO).

**Napo:** forest around the Bermejo oil fields north of Lumbaqui, alt. 850 m, 9 Feb. 1986, *C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & A. Embree 11747* (MO).

This small species occurs at moderately low altitudes on the eastern slope of the Andes of Ecuador. It is characterized by a slender, crowded, secund raceme of little, yellow flowers, longer than the elliptical leaf. The dorsal sepal is ovate and five-veined; the synsepal is deeply concave; the petals are three-veined; and the lip is thick with the apex broadly rounded, and with a three-lobed callus on the dorsum.

Fig. 114. *Stelis luteola*