

115. **Stelis memorialis** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *memoralis*, "of a reminder," referring to the similarity to other species of sect. *Humboldtia*.

Species haec *S. globiflorae* Rchb.f. similis, sed habitu majore, inflorescentia congesta secunda, petalis brevioribus transverse ovatis, et labello triangulari differt.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 5-12 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 3-4 cm long including a petiole 0.3-0.5 cm long, the blade 1-1.2 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** 1-2 erect, strict, subcongested, subsecund, simultaneously several-flowered racemes, 8-10 cm long including the peduncle 3-3.5 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, obtuse, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; flowers purple, bilabiate; **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal erect, ovate, obtuse, 5.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate basally to the synsepal for 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate into a transversely ovoid, obtuse, concave synsepal, 4 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, expanded, 6-veined; **petals** semilunate, with the apex broadly rounded, thickened across the center, concave above the base, 0.6 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** thickly triangular, 0.4 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, 0.6 mm deep, the anterior surface shallowly concave, the apex broadly rounded with the margin thickened, the bar prominent with a shallow glenion, with the dorsum deflexed, with a low, rounded, pubescent callus, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.75 mm long, 1 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Morona-Santiago:** Cordillera del Cutucú, new road between Mendez and Morona, alt. 950 m, 17 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, S. Ortega, A. & P. Jesup 13997 (Holotype: MO).

This small species of section *Humboldtia* is apparently endemic in lowland, eastern Ecuador. It is distinguished by the small habit with the flowers of the raceme overlapping and facing in two directions. The dorsal sepal is broadly ovate, and the synsepal is shallowly concave. The petals are broadly semilunate. The lip is triangular with the dorsum sloping backward and downward. The margin of the bar is prominent as a transverse ridge.

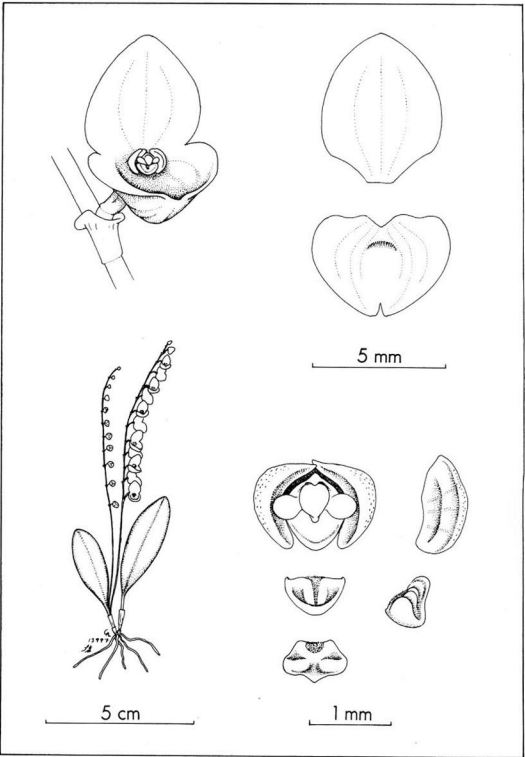


Fig. 115. *Stelis memorialis*