

117. **Stelis neudeckeri** Luer & Dodson, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Tilman Neudecker of Würzburg, Germany, co-collector of this species.

Inter species sect. *Humboldtiae*, planta mediocris caespitosa ramicaulibus prolificantibus, racemo dense laxe grandiflora plurifloraque folio elliptico longiore, synsepalo concavo cum mento profundo, et labello subquadrato humili apice rotundo distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, dense caespitose; roots coarse slender. Ramicauls stout, erect, prolific, 4-9 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath near the middle and another below the middle. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, petiolate, acute, 5-9 cm long including the petiole 1.5 cm long, the blade 1.5-2 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, distichous, loosely several-flowered raceme with few flowers open simultaneously, 10-12 cm long including the peduncle 3-4 cm long, subtended by a spathe ca. 1 cm long, from below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 5-7 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; flowers "brownish," bilabiate; **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 10-13 mm long, 6-8 mm wide, with 5 primary, branching veins, connate 2 mm to the synsepal, the lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovoid, deeply concave synsepal with a mentum below the lip, 8-11 mm long, 7-11 mm wide unexpanded, multiveined; **petals** semilunate, 1.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, concave below the broadly rounded apex with a broad, smooth margin, concave below a transverse callus; **lip** purple, thick, subquadrate, 0.75 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 0.9 mm deep, the apex broadly rounded, anterior surface smooth, the bar with a minute, inconspicuous glenion, the dorsum with a low, multilobed callus, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Esmeraldas: northwest of Cristal northwest of Lita, alt. 1450 m, 29 Dec. 1990, C.H. Dodson, T. Neudecker & H. Volles 18611 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20470.

This species from northwestern Ecuador is characterized by a densely caespitose habit with frequently prolific ramicauls. The stout, loose, several-flowered raceme exceeds the leaf. The flowers are large with a deeply concave synsepal. The margins of the crescent-shaped petals are broad and smooth. The lip is shallow with the anterior surface smooth, nearly flat, and broadly rounded.

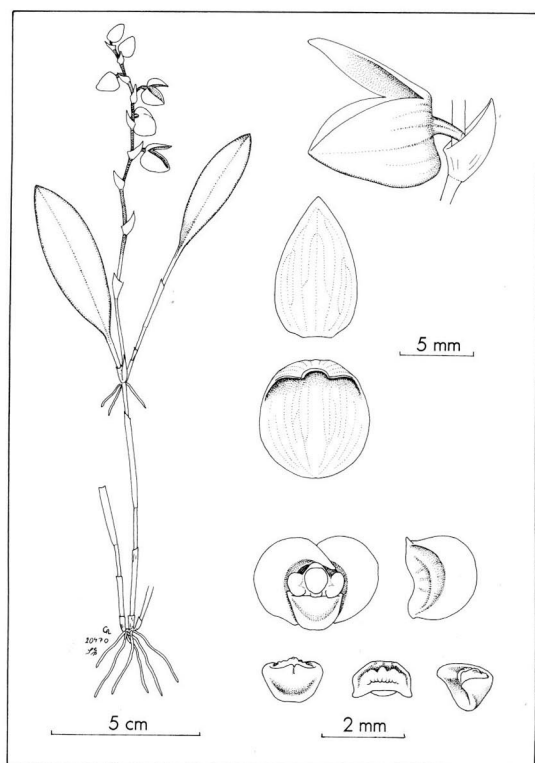


Fig. 117. *Stelis neudeckeri*