

120. *Stelis scaphoglossa* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *scaphoslossa*, "hollowed out tongue," referring to the concave lip.

Inter species sect. *Humboldtiae*, planta mediocris, racemo dense disticho folio longiore, synsepalo infra medium concavo cum mento lato, et labello subquadrato ad centrum profunde concavo marginibus anticis angulatis distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 5-8 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath on the middle third, and another at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-oblong, obtuse, petiolate, 7-8.5 cm long including the petiole ca. 1 cm long, the blade 1-1.4 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, distichous, densely many-flowered raceme with many flowers open simultaneously, 8-12 cm long including the peduncle 2 cm long, subtended by a spathe 9-12 mm long, from below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts infundibular, oblique, acute, 3-4 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; flowers bilabiate, light yellow; **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal erect, ovate, subacute or obtuse, 4 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate basally to the synsepal, the lateral sepals connate to near the middle into a broadly ovate, concave synsepal with a broad mentum below the lip, 2.5 mm long, each 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** transversely semilunate, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, concave below the broadly rounded apex with the margin thickened and convex, concave toward the base; **lip** thick, subquadrato, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1 mm deep, deeply concave centrally into the bar, the apex triangular, obtuse, decurved, the dorsum with a broad, low, pubescent callus at the base, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1.2 mm long, 1 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Zamora-Chinchi: Cordillera del Condor, east of Los Encuentros, alt. 1650 m, 18 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13443 (Holotype: MO).

The unusual lip of this species is somewhat similar to that of *S. fissurata* from northwesternmost Ecuador. The anterior margins of both species are obtusely angled to either side of a deeply concave center of the bar. The raceme of *S. scaphoglossa* is densely flowered with proportionately large floral bracts. The lateral sepals are connate to near the middle into a synsepal that is broadly concave below the middle. The petals are held closely around the column and lip so that none of the interior below the convex margins is visible.

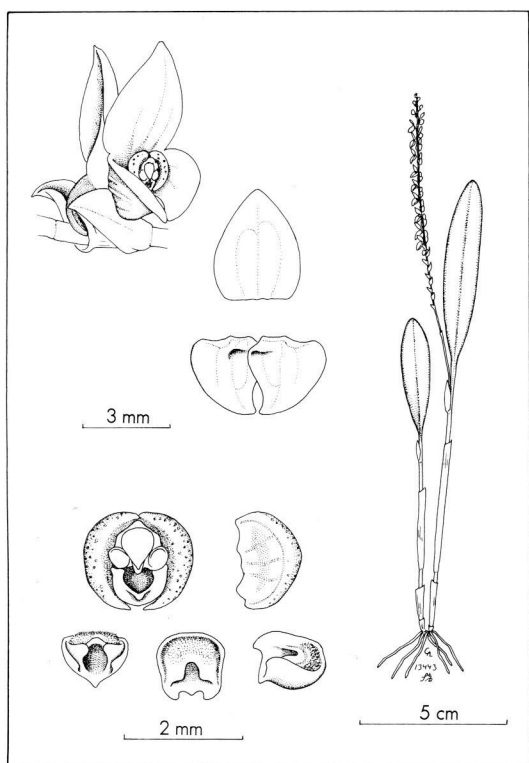


Fig. 120. *Stelis scaphoglossa*