

122. **Stelis tarda** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *tardus*, "slow," in allusion to the slow succession of flowers.

Planta parva mediocrisve caespitosa, folio elliptico racemo lente successivifloro subaequilongo gemmis fructibusque simultanei, synsepalis leviter concavo, petalis transversis tenuibus et labello transverse ovoideo apice rotundo tenui callo centro erecto distinguitur.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2-4 cm long, with a tubular sheath from near the middle, and another 1-2 sheaths below the middle. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to acute, petiolate, 4-6 cm long including a petiole 1-1.5 cm long, the blade 0.8-1.3 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, subcongested, distichous, slowly successive, several-flowered raceme, 4-7 cm long including the peduncle 1-1.5 cm long, with a spathe 0.5 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, tubular, acute, 3-4 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** glabrous, yellow, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, 4 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, connate below the middle to the synsepal, the lateral sepals connate to near the apex into a transversely ovoid, shallowly concave, bifid synsepal, 3 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, 6-veined; **petals** yellow, thin, transversely ovate, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined, shallowly concave, the apex broadly rounded without a thickened margin; **lip** transversely ovoid, 0.75 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, 0.75 mm deep, concave within the broadly rounded apex with a thin margin, the bar tall with a longitudinal glenion, the dorsum with a rounded callus, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Sucumbíos: El Mirador, alt. 3600 m, Aug. 1990, A. Hirtz, X. Hirtz, J. del Hierro & F. Sarmiento 4947 (Holotype: MO); C. Luer illustr. 20435a.

This species occurs at a very high altitude in northern Ecuador. It is distinguished by a several-flowered raceme with one, or occasionally two flowers open simultaneously in slow succession while capsules are ripening below and buds continue to be formed above. For section *Humboldtia*, the synsepal is shallowly concave; the transverse petals are thin; and the round, apical margin of the lip is thin and concave. The bar is tall with a narrow glenion.

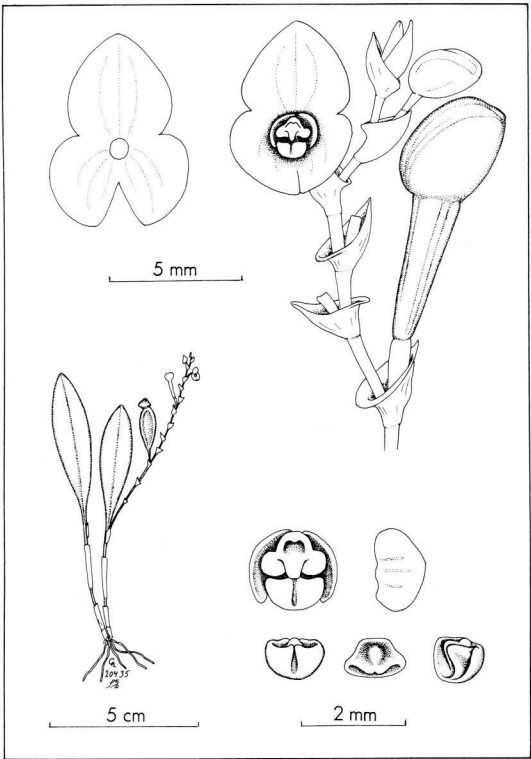


Fig. 122. *Stelis tarda*