

124. ***Stelis tenuifolia* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *tenuifolius*, "slender-leaved," referring to the blades of the leaves.

Species haec *S. purpureae* (Ruiz & Pav.) Willd. affinis, sed habitu floribusque multiminoribus, foliis gracillimis, et sepalo dorsali quinquenervato differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose to ascending; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3-5 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath from near the middle, and another 1-2 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly linear-elliptical, acute, subpetiolate, 6-8 cm long including a petiole ca. 1 cm long, the blade 0.5 cm wide, narrowed below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** 1-3 erect, subdense, distichous, nearly simultaneously several-flowered racemes, 6-10 cm long including the peduncle 1-2 cm long, with a spathe ca. 4 mm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 4-5 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; flowers purple, bilabiate; **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal erect, broadly ovate, obtuse, 5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 5-veined, connate basally to the synsepal for 2 mm, the lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovate, obtuse, minutely bifid, concave synsepal, 4.5 mm long, 5.5 mm wide expanded, 8-veined; **petals** transversely semilunate, shallowly concave basally, thickened across the middle, with the apex broadly rounded, flat on the thickened margin, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** thickly subtriangular, obtuse with the margin thickened, 0.75 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, the anterior surface with a large, deep glenion, the bar notched, the dorsum shallowly concave with a low, 3-lobed callus, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Esmeraldas: wet forest west of Lita, alt. 750 m, 18 Jan. 1987, C. Luer, J. Luer, C. Dodson, A. Hirtz & D. Benzing 12356 (Holotype: MO).

This species, a small relative of the frequent and variable *S. purpurea*, is characterized by the small habit with narrowly linear leaves five millimeters wide. A several-flowered raceme of small flowers surpasses the leaves. The dorsal sepal is five-veined; the petals are transversely lunate; and the lip is small, subtriangular with a deep glenion.

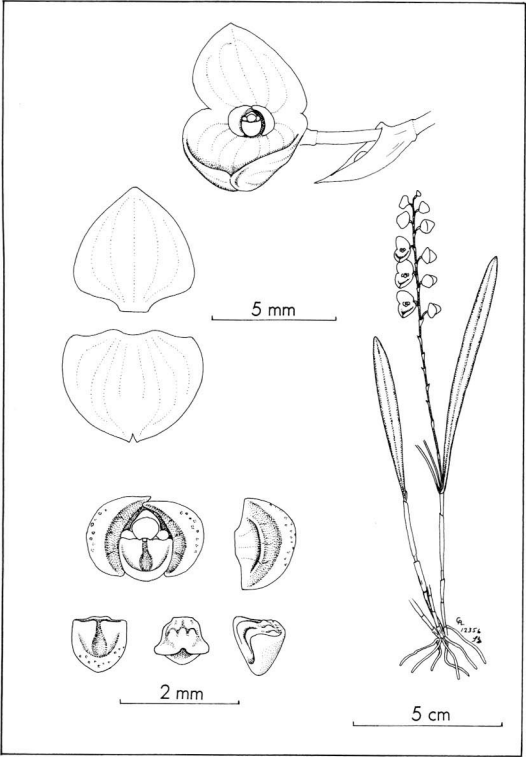


Fig. 124. *Stelis tenuifolia*