

Stelis anolis Luer, sp. nov.

Planta grandis epiphytica vel terrestris caespitosa, caulibus secundariis teretibus folio erecto elliptico obtuso petiolato plus minusve aequilongis, racemo erecto multifloro disticho folio multilongiore, floribus non-resupinatis, sepalis pallido virescentibus intus breviter pubescentibus, sepalo mediano libro anguste ovato, sepalis lateralibus parallelis anguste ovatis obliquis ad basim connatis, petalis ovatis infra medium obtusangulis, labello minuto crasso subhemisphaerico.

Plant large, epiphytic to terrestrial, caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, terete, 6-13 cm long, with a long, loose, tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, petiolate, elliptical, 10-13 cm long including the 3 cm long petiole, 4-5 cm wide, longitudinally veined, the apex obtuse to rounded, retuse with an apiculum in the sinus, cuneate below into the narrow channeled petiole. Inflorescence an erect, many-flowered, distichous raceme to 30 cm long or longer, flowering from near the base, from a spathe 1-2 cm long at the base of the leaf, the flowers non-resupinate; floral bracts oblique, infundibular, 2-3 mm long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals pale green, shortly pubescent within, the middle sepal free, ovate, acuminate, acute, 11 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals uppermost, ovate, oblique, 10 mm long, parallel, connate basally to form a concave hood over the middle sepal, 5 mm wide together; petals ovate, 2 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, subacute, the margins obtusely angled below the middle, 3-veined; lip thick, subhemispherical, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, concave anteriorly above the thick, rounded margin, the glenion small, shallowly concave above the basal attachment; column stout, 1 mm long and wide, with separate stigmatic lobes.

ETYMOLOGY: From the reptilian genus *Anolis* in allusion to the resemblance of the flower to the head of the American chameleon (*Anolis carolinensis*).

TYPE: ECUADOR. TUNGURAHUA: terrestrial in Valle de Chaupe above Baños, alt. 2200 m, 24 July 1975, cultivated at SEL, C. Luer, J. Luer & S. Wilhelm 629 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Ecuador.

This many-flowered species is characterized by the long, pale green, non-resupinate flowers. The lateral sepals connive to form a hood over the free middle sepal.