

**Stelis butcheri** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta grandis caespitosa, caulibus secundariis robustis folio elliptico acuto longioribus, racemo longissimo dense multifloro subflexuoso usque 70 cm longo, floribus plus minusve decem simul apertis pallide flavovirescentibus pilis niveis, sepalis late ovatis obtusis similibus patentibus dense ciliatis, petalis transverse ovatis apice crassissimis rotundatis, labello crasso subquadrato apice rotundato breviter obtuse apiculato.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, stout, unifoliate, 25-33 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath near the middle and 2 other sheaths at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, longitudinally veined, elliptical, 12-15 cm long including a 1.5 cm long petiole, 4-6 cm wide, the apex acute, tridenticulate, the base cuneate into the channeled petiole. Inflorescence racemose, 1-2 erect, progressively lengthening, densely many-flowered, subflexuous racemes 30-70 cm long, with 8-12 relatively large, all yellow-green open simultaneously, from a spathe 1.5-2 cm long at the base of the leaf; floral bract oblique, acute, 4-6 mm long; pedicel 3-5 mm long; ovary 2-3 mm long; sepals similar, widespread, glabrous except for the densely white-ciliate margins, broadly ovate, obtuse, the dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals 3 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, connate basally; petals transversely ovate, markedly thickened and widened at the broadly rounded apex, cellular-glandular, 1.5 mm long, 2 mm wide; lip thick, subquadrate, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, shallowly concave anteriorly, the apex broadly rounded with a short, obtuse apiculum, the disc callous-thickened with a glenion anteriorly, the truncate base hinged to the base of the column; column stout, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, the stigmatic lobes diverging to either side of the rostellar flap.

ETYMOLOGY : Named in honor of Henry Butcher of Volcán, Chiriqui, Panamá, avid orchid enthusiast, who discovered this species.

TYPE: PANAMA. CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in cloud forest above Guadalupe, alt. ca. 2000 m, 1 Sept. 1976, H. Butcher, s.n., *C. Luer 1101* (HOLOTYPE: SEL); same area, 13 Sept. 1976, *C. Luer & H. Butcher 1204* (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION : Western Panama.

This huge, showy species is remarkable in the gradually lengthening raceme of relatively large, yellow-green flowers with densely ciliated margins, the hairs being white. About ten closely packed flowers are open simultaneously as the lower ones fade and the upper ones mature. Some plants reach a height of one meter.