

***Stelis loculifera* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta mediocris grandisve caespitosa, caulibus secundariis foliis ellipticis acutis longipetiolatis longioribus, racemo longissimo disticho dense multifloro, floribus purpureis, sepalis similibus ovatis obtusis nonpatentibus basi-
bus in loculum brevem connatis intus breviter pubescentibus, petalis flabella-
tis, labello subquadrato apice subacuto disco transverse incrassato supra
basin callo bilobato, columna brevi lobis stigmatis confluentibus.

Plant medium to large in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots numerous, fine, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, erect, unifoliate, 8-14 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath near the middle and 1-2 other sheaths at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, long-petiolate, the petioles slender, 2.5-3.5 cm long, the blade 6-8 cm long, 1.8-2.5 cm wide, the apex acute, tridenticu-
late, cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence an erect, densely many-
flowered, distichous raceme 20-28 cm long including the peduncle ca. 5 cm
long, from a spathe 12-15 mm long near the apex of the secondary stem; flo-
ral bract 2-3 mm long; pedicel sharply angled, 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long;
sepals purple, similar, not widely spread, minutely glandular-pubescent with-
in, ovate, obtuse, the dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lateral sepals
3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate basally to form a short, rounded, sepaline
tube; petals flabellate, 0.6 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the apex broadly truncate
with a thickened margin; lip thickly subquadrate, triangular in the lateral
view, 0.6 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the apex subacute, more or less incurved,
the disc transversely fleshy-thickened, protruding slightly from the non-con-
cave anterior surface, with a low, bilobed callus on top near the base, shal-
lowly cleft between, continuing anteriorly as the glenion; column stout, 0.5
mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the stigmatic lobes confluent centrally.

ETYMOLOGY . From the Latin *loculus*, "a small cavity," and *-fer*, "-bearing,"
referring to the small sepaline tube.

TYPE: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in cloud forest on Cerro Colorado
above Camp Escopeta, alt. 1700 m, Feb. 1977, cult. at SEL, 77-1901,
flowered in cult. 4 May 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. L. Dressler 1614
(HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Western Panama.

This species may be recognized by the slender secondary stems longer
than the long-petiolate leaves; a very long, many-flowered raceme of purple
flowers; similar, non-spreading sepals connate basally into a short sepaline
tube filled with the remaining floral parts; flabellate petals; a thick, subquad-
rate lip with a bilobed callus on top; and a column with centrally confluent
stigmatic lobes.