



15. ***STELIS LUMBRICOSA*** Duque, sp. nov.

(Pl. V, 7-9; Pl. XII, 3)

Planta epiphytica grandis ascendens ramosa. Caulibus secundariis unifoliatis superpositis. Foliis oblongis ellipticis subacutis, basi sensim in petiolum angustatis. Racemis singulis vel duobus, floriferibus usque supra basim. Bracteis acutis, ostiis ampliis. Sepalo intermedio ovato cucullato, laterali-  
bus in laminam ovalem concavam connatis. Petalis semiorbicularibus, albis, mucronatis. Labello latere oblongo, trilobulato, antice suborbiculari breviter apiculato, disco lamella posteriori erecta, transversa cum gibbo succulento. Columna brachis stigmaticis divergentibus prorrectis.

**TIPO:** Colombia, Departamento de Santander, sin localidad exacta. Se encontró en el cultivo de S. Tsubota. Florece en el cultivo de O. Duque mayo 6, 1990. O. Duque 585 (Holotipo:JAUM).

**ETMOLOGIA:** del latín *lumbricus*, lombriz, gusanillo, por el aspecto de los pétalos en posición natural.

From the Latin *lumbricus*, a worm, in allusion to the shape of the petals in their natural position.

Planta grande epífita con rizoma ascendente, ramosa con tallos prolíficos. Hoja oblongo-elíptica, 10 x 3 cm, apex casi obtuso, peciolada. La inflorescencia 1-2 racimos de 6 a 10 cm de largo moderadamente floríferas. Brácteas florales medianas apiculadas. Ovario curvo. Flores grandes para el género. Sépalo dorsal rojo, sépalos laterales connados en un sinsépalo cóncavo verde claro. Pétalos blancos suborbiculares, ápice engrosado cortamente mucronado; cuando la flor se ve de frente parecen dos gusanillos blancos. El labelo es lateralmente triangular-semilunado, por encima es rombo; callo laminar erecto. Los brazos estigmáticos de la columna son largos, oblicuos.

**Plant** medium to large in size, epiphytic; rhizome creeping. Secondary stems prolific forming an untidy mass of stems and leaves, with internodal slender roots; internodal sections up to 20 cm long. **Leaf** sub erect, oblong-elliptic, coriaceous, apex obtuse minutely tridenticulate, lamina 10 x 3 cm narrowing below into a sulcate 2 cm long petiole. **Inflorescence** 1-2 more or less erect loosely flowered racemes flowering almost to the base, 6-10 cm long, from an 1 cm long pointed spathe at the base of the leaf. Floral bract infundibular acute, oblique, 3 mm long, concealing part of the pedicel; ovary incurved 1.5 mm long. Flowers large for the genus, non resupinate, borne to opposed sides of the rachis. Dorsal **sepal** broadly ovoid, cucullate, deep red, 5.5 mm long, 5 mm wide with 5 main veins and two accessories. Lateral sepals united in all their length forming a deep, very clear green synsepal, each sepal 4-veined. **Petals** white, orbicular, thick, 3 mm high, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral margins plump, arching from the base to the shortly mucronate apex; in the flower they resemble two little worms. **Lip** 1.1 mm long, 1.1 mm wide, trilobed, laterally triangular-semilunate, vertical, rhombic from above, the face rounded with a small obtuse apiculum in the middle of the anterior margin; the concave disc is limited behind by an erect transverse lamina with a small notch in the upper margin, buttressed behind by a small mass of soft tissue. **Column** 1.2 mm long, 1.1 mm wide, stigmata large on long downward oblique arms.

**NOTAS:** *S. lumbricoides* no es una especie común. Pertenece al gran grupo de los *Stelis* de flor roja con sinsépalo, pero no tiene parientes

cercanos. La planta se reconoce por su tamaño más o menos grande, su rizoma ascendente, su hábito ramoso, el sépalo superior rojo, el sinsépalo verdoso casi blanco, y por el borde blanco y grueso de los pétalos que forman como dos gusanillos en la flor. La flor abre al atardecer hasta temprano en la mañana.

*S. lumbricoides* is not a common species. It belongs in the large group of *Stelis* with red flowers with synsepal but it does not have close relatives. The plant may be recognized by its medium to large size, its creeping rhizome, its ramose habit, the large red dorsal sepal, its almost white greenish synsepal, and by the appearance of the petals in the flower that look like two small worms. The flowers open in the evening until early in the morning.

