

**Stelis morae** Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Alajuela: San Carlos, collected by D. Mora de Retana, R. L. Dressler et al., Jan. 1990, flowered in cultivation at the Lankester Botanical Garden, 7 Mar. 1995, *C. Luer 17375* (Holotype: CR, Isotype: MO). Fig. 32.

Planta pendens caespitosa, racemo dense multifloro folio angustissime elliptico brevior, sepalis similibus purpureis ovatis obtusis, petalis flabelliformibus et labello crasso subquadrato.

**Plant** medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls descending, slender 2–3 cm long, enclosed by 2–3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** pendent, coriaceous, narrowly linear-elliptic, acute to subacute, 18–25 cm long including an indistinct petiole 3–5 cm long, 0.8–1 cm wide, gradually narrowed to the petiole. **Inflorescence** a pendent, distichous, cylindrical, densely many-flowered raceme with many flowers open simultaneously, 5–10 cm long including the peduncle ca. 2 cm long, sparsely bracted, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 1 mm long, 2 mm broad; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** similar, expanded, red-purple, cellular-pubescent, glabrous externally, connate 1 mm basally, broadly ovate, obtuse, 3 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** purple, transversely cuneate, shallowly concave, 0.6 mm long, 1.1 mm wide, the apex truncate with the margin thickened; **lip** purple, triangular-quadrate, 0.6 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, 0.6 mm deep, the apex broadly rounded, the disc thickened, concave anteriorly, with a broad, flat, shortly pubescent callus on top, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.6 mm long, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the broadly confluent stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Dora Emilia Mora de Retana of Cartago, director of Lankester Botanical Garden in Costa Rica, co-discoverer of this species.

This species appears to be related to *S. ciliaris*, but there are some basic differences. The descending ramicauls bear much longer, pendent, very narrow leaves. The pendent, cylindrical racemes of overlapping, purple flowers is reminiscent of *S. ciliaris*, but the short, thick lip does not seem allied to the flat, obovate lip of *S. ciliaris*.

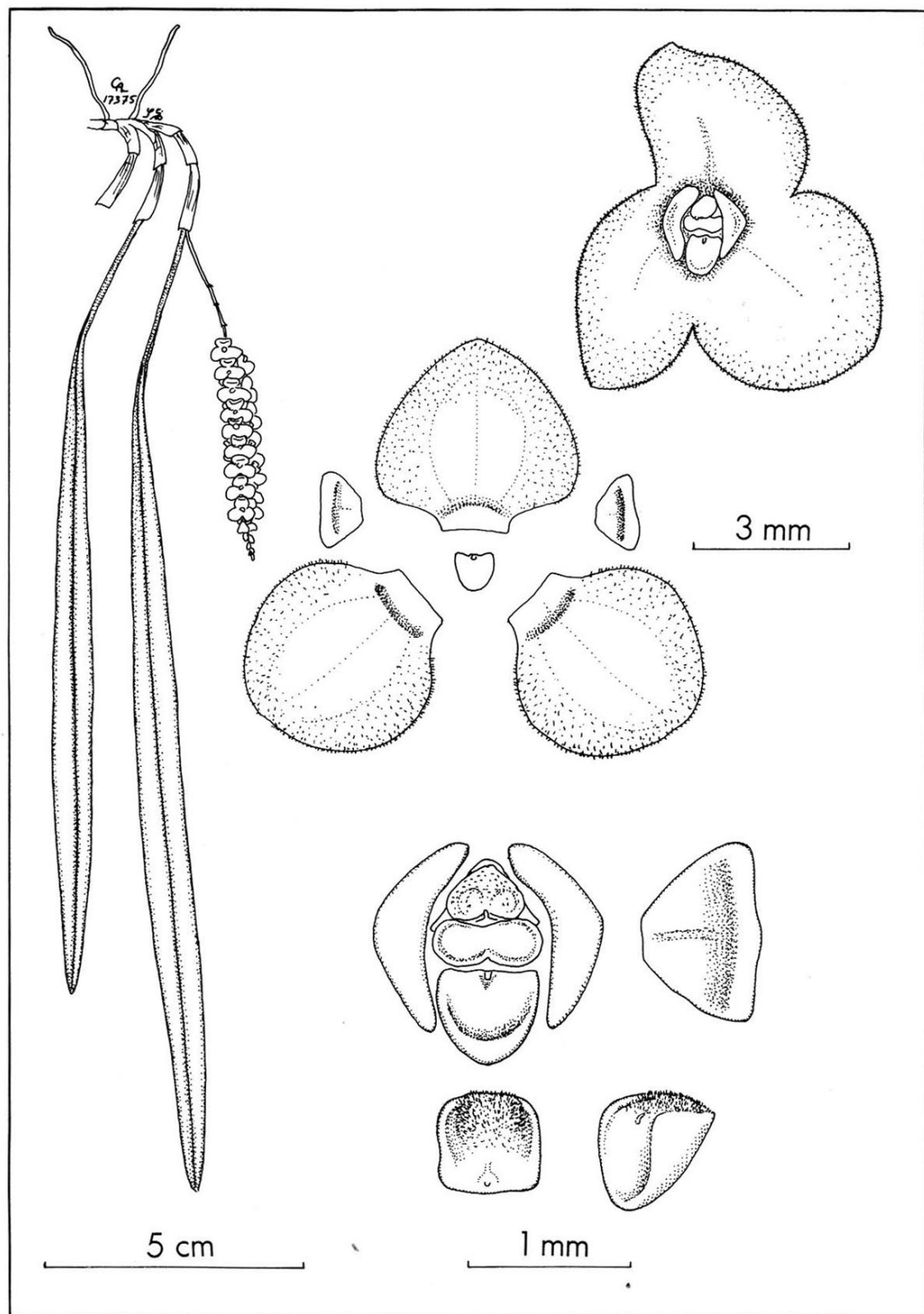


Fig. 32. *Stelis morae*