

Stelis oscitans Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: PANAMA. Prov. of Chiriquí: forest near the Fortuna dam, alt. 1100 m, 16 Feb. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Dressler & K. Dressler 10575 (Holotype: MO). Fig. 33.

Planta parva caespitosa, racemo laxe paucifloro foliis ellipticis duplolongiore, sepalo dorsali late ovato, synsepalo concavo, petalis flabellatis proportione grandibus et labello semidiscoideo.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 6–8 mm long, enclosed by a loose, tubular sheath and two other sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-obovate, subacute to obtuse, 12–20 mm long including the petiole 3–6 mm long, 4–6 mm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a flexible, suberect, subflexuous, 2- to 4-flowered raceme up to 5 cm long including the peduncle 2–3 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts infundibular, oblique, acute, 2 mm long; pedicels 1–1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; flowers bilabiate; **sepals** membranous, purple, glabrous, the dorsal sepal erect, broadly ovate, obtuse, lightly convex, 6 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 1 mm to the synsepal, the lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovate, deeply concave synsepal, 5.5 mm long, 5.5 mm wide unexpanded, each sepal 3-veined; **petals** purple, transversely ovate-flabellate, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined, concave basally, transversely thickened across the middle, with the apex broadly obtuse to rounded, broadly thickened on the margin; **lip** purple, thick, semidiscoid, 0.8 mm long, 1 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, the anterior surface shallowly concave with the apex broadly rounded, transversely thickened above the base with a small, shortly ciliate, central callus, the base broadly truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *oscitans*, “yawning,” in allusion to the gaping, bilabiate flowers.

This little member of sect. *Humboldtia* is distinguished by the loose, few-flowered raceme about twice as long as the elliptical leaves. The dorsal sepal is broadly ovate and the synsepal is deeply concave. The petals are proportionately large, 50 % broader than the lip. The lip is sem-

idiscoid, broadly rounded at the apex and flattened on the narrow dorsum with a small, shortly ciliate callus.

PARATYPE: COSTA RICA. Prov. of Alajuela, Orosí, collected by T. Mulder, flowered in cultivation in Holland, 3 Sept. 1984, C. Luer 10443 (SEL).

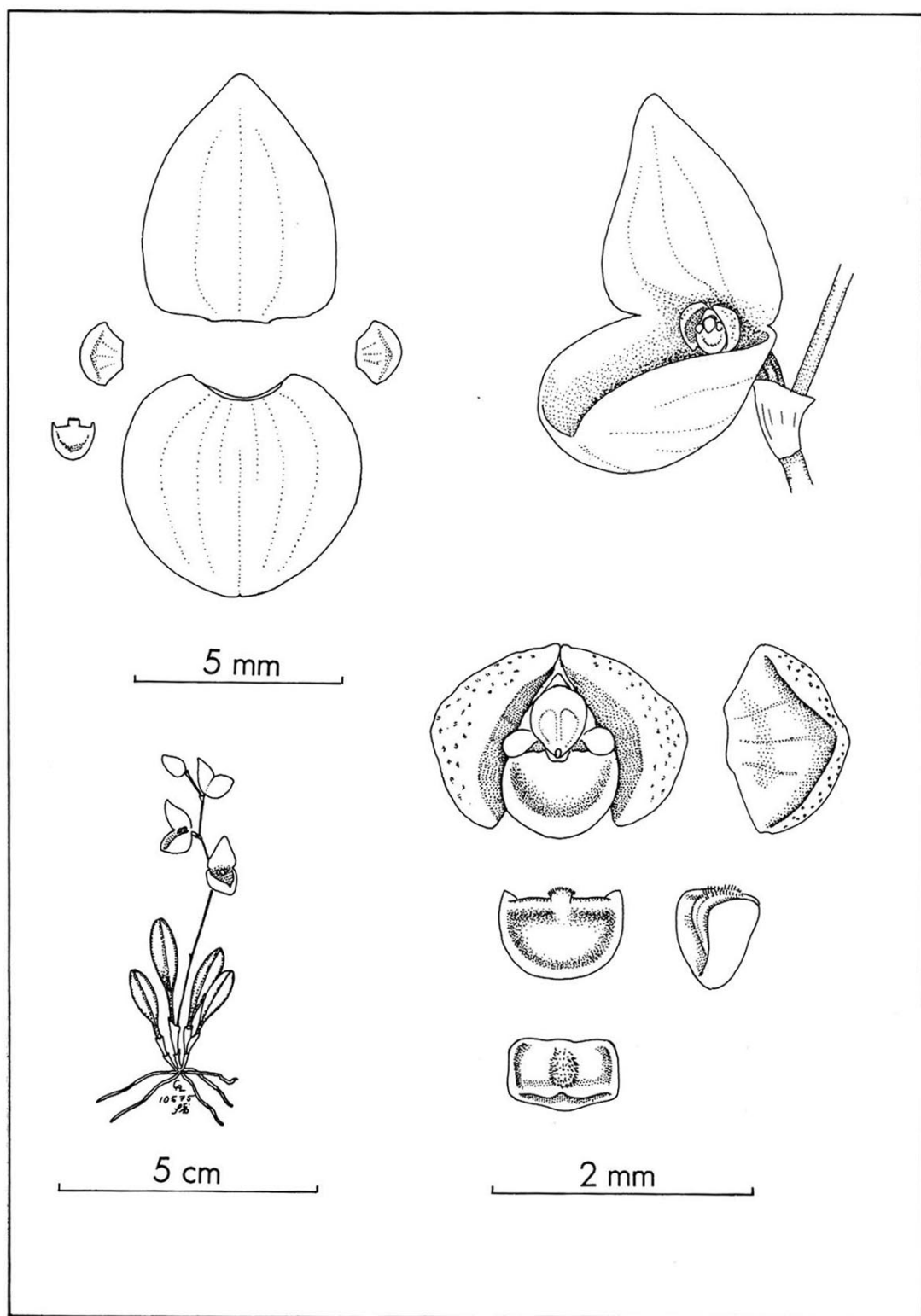


Fig. 33. *Stelis oscitans*