

*Stelis triaristata* Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis brevibus laxè vaginatis, folio anguste elliptico-lineare, racemo erecto gracili dense multifloro secundo, sepalis libris similibus albovirescentibus anguste ovato-linearibus marginibus revolutis, petalis flabellatis, labello minuto crasso triangulari supra apicem rotundatum concavo supra basem bisulcato.

Plant medium-sized, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems terete, unifoliate, 3-4 cm long, enclosed by 1-2 loose, tubular, imbricating sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly linear-elliptical, 8-14 cm long, 1-1.6 cm wide, the apex subacute, tridenticulate, gradually narrowed below to the slender base. Inflorescence an erect, slender, crowded, many-flowered, secund raceme, 10-16 cm long including the 3 cm long peduncle, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bracts close, tubular, 2-2.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals free, similar, spreading, greenish-white, glabrous, narrowly linear-ovate, acute with revolute margins, 7 mm long, 1 mm wide; petals flabellate, with a thickened, rounded margin, 0.6 mm long, 0.8 mm wide; lip greenish-white, thick, triangular, 0.5 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, concave anteriorly above the rounded apex, bisulcate with a central, rounded callus below the column above the attachment to the column-foot; column stout, 0.5 mm long, 0.8 mm wide across the protruding stigmatic lobes.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *triaristatus*, "three-awned," referring to the appearance of the flowers.

TYPE: PANAMA. PANAMA: epiphytic in cloud forest along the Altos de Pacora road, alt. ca. 350 m, March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. L. Dressler & P. Taylor 2109 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Panama.

This delicate species is characterized by the narrow leaves borne by short secondary stems concealed by loose sheaths. Borne in a slender, crowded raceme, the little whitish flowers appear to be composed of three very slender, diverging sepals.