

*Stelis tridactylon* Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris vel grandis epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis teretibus superne leviter compressis folio erecto elliptico obtuso plus minusve aequilongis, racemo erecto multifloro disticho folio multilongiore, sepalis supra medium viridibus infra medium rubro suffusis libris similibus anguste ovatis obtusis, petalis minutis flabelliformibus, labello minuto rubro crasso subhemisphaerico.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, terete, slightly compressed above, 5-10 cm long, with a loose tubular sheath near the middle and another at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, 8-12.5 cm long, 3-4 cm wide, the apex obtuse to rounded, retuse, apiculate, the base cuneate, conduplicate, sessile. Inflorescence an erect, many-flowered, distichous raceme to 23 cm long or longer, flowering from near the base, from a spathe 2-2.5 cm long at the base of the leaf; floral bracts close, tubular, 2 mm long, pedicel 3 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals similar, green, suffused with red below the middle, glabrous, free, spreading, with the sides more or less revolute, narrowly ovate, 10-13 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, the apices narrowly obtuse; petals broadly flabellate, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the rounded margin thickened, red, glandular-cellular, concave centrally; lip red-purple, thick subhemispherical, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, slightly concave anteriorly with a small glenion, the apex rounded, slightly concave above the broad basal attachment; column stout, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide across the laterally protruding stigmatic lobes.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *tri-* (τρι), "three-" and *dactylon* (δακτυλον), "finger," in reference to the three-pronged flowers.

TYPE. ECUADOR: NAPO: epiphytic in cloud forest 14 Km north of Archidona, alt. ca. 600 m, 27 July 1975, cult. at SEL, greenhouse acc. no. 44-75-289, C. Luer, J. Luer & S. Wilhelm 622 (HOLOTYPE: SEL; ISOTYPE: AMES, K).

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Ecuador.

This many-flowered species may be recognized by the free, narrow, similar, spreading sepals, green above the middle and red below the middle.