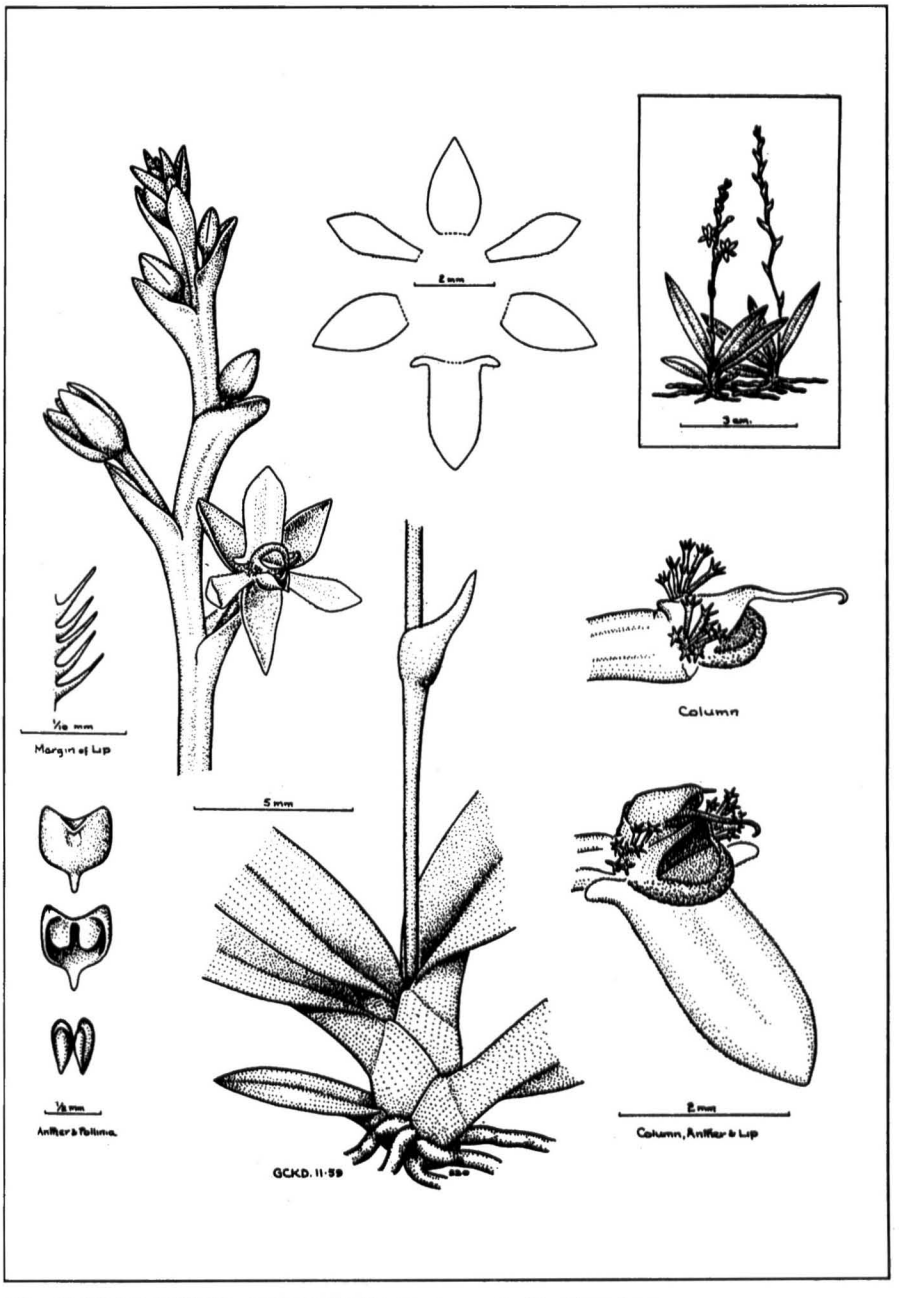
118. ***STELLILABIUM ALTICOLUM*** Dodson & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Similis *Stellilabii pogonostalicis* (Rchb.f.) Garay & Dunst. sed distinctum rhachi triangulari inflorescentiae et floribus singulis sed successivis per fere totum annum.



118. ***STELLILABIUM ALTICOLUM*** Dodson & R. Escobar.
Dibujo: G.C.K. Dunsterville.
Por cortesía del Herbario de Orquídeas Oakes Ames, Universidad de Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Estados Unidos.

Orig. Coll: Ecuador: Napo: Quito to Baeza, km 73, Cuyuja, 2400 m, 2 December 1985, *Dodson 16265* (Holotype RPSC).

ETIMOLOGÍA: Nombrada en referencia a la altitud donde se dan las plantas.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in reference to the upper ranges of altitude where the plants occur.

OTHER SPECIMENS SEEN: Ecuador: Loja: Loja to Zamora, km 12, 2800 m, 22 March 1985, *Hirtz 2286A* (RPSC photo). Morona-Santiago: Limon, 1000 m, 17 February 1986, *Hirtz 2782* (MO). Pichincha: Quito to Sto. Domingo vía Chiriboga, 2000 m, 29 July 1977, *Luer et al. 1775* (SEL). Tungurahua: Baños to Puyo, Río Negro, 1500 m, 18 March 1976, *Luer et al. 926* (SEL).

Plant epiphytic, usually in trees of *Psidium guayava,* small, semiannual in development from seed to flowering. Rhizome extremely short; pseudobulbs lacking. Leaves distichous, imbricated at the base, forming a fan-shape, the blade narrowly elliptic, acute, to 2.5 x 5 cm. Inflorescence racemose, triangular in cross-section, to 15 cm long, the flowers produced singly in succession for a prolonged period. Flowers yellow-green, the petals yellow sith red at the base, the lip spotted with red. Sepals free to the base; dorsal sepal ovate, blunt at the apex, erect, to 3 x 1.5 mm; lateral sepals obliquely ovate, reflexed, to 3 x 1.5 mm; petals elliptic, obtuse at the apex, erect, to 3 x 1.7 mm; lip 3-lobed, sessile and surrounding the base of the column, the mid-lobe oblong, obtuse at the apex, to 3.5 x 1.5 mm, with falcate, forward projecting lateral lobes on each side at the base; column sessile, thick, 1 mm long, with a few apically-branched spines on each side, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical; pollinia 4, hard.

NOTAS: Las plantas de *S. alticolum* suelen clasificarse como *S. pogonostalix* (Rchb. f.) Garay & Dunst. Sin embargo, el examen del tipo de *S. pogonostalix*, (*Spruce 6135*) en el Herbario de Reichenbach (W), revela que ésta es la especie encontrada sólo en el occidente del Ecuador, en las laderas andinas entre los 1300 y 1600 metros de altura. *S. pogonostalix* fue descrita también como *Sodiroella ecuadorensis* Schltr. (en Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 8: 108. 1921) con base en *Sodiro s.n.* (el tipo fue destruido en Berlin) proveniente de las laderas occidentales del volcán Chimborazo. En *Stellilabium pogonostalix* el raquis de la inflorescencia es terete y las flores se producen casi simultáneamente. En cambio, en *Stellilabium alticolum* (ilustrada como *S. pogonostalix* en Icon. Pl. Trop. I. 337 y en Dunsterville

& Garay «Orchids of Venezuela: An Illustrated Field Guide» página 1005), aunque las flores son muy parecidas, el raquis de la inflorescencia es triangular y las flores se producen individual y sucesivamente casi todo el año. *Stellilabium alticolum* se encuentra ampliamente distribuida desde Venezuela hasta el Perú.

NOTES: It has been customary to consider plants of this species as belonging to *S. pogonostalix* (Rchb.f.) Garay & Dunst. Unfortunately, examination of the type of *S. pogonostalix*, (*Spruce 6135*) at the Reichenbach Herbarium (W) reveals it to be the species found only in western Ecuador on the slopes of the Andes between 1300 and 1600 meters. That species was also described as *Sodiroella ecuadorensis* Schltr. (in Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 8: 108. 1921.) based on *Sodiro s.n.* (type destroyed at Berlin) collected on the western slopes of Mt. Chimborazo. *Stellilabium pogonostalix* has a terete rachis of the inflorescence and the flowers are produced nearly simultaneously. *Stellilabium alticolum* (illustrated as *S. pogonostalix* in Icon. Pl. Trop. t. 337 and in Dunsterville & Garay "Orchids of Venezuela, an Illustrated Field Guide" on page 1005) has very similar flowers but the rachis of the inflorescence is triangular and the flowers are produced singly, in succession throughout most of the year. The latter species is widely distributed from Venezuela to Peru.

ILLUSTRATION: No illustration of Ecuadorian material was available but see Garay & Dunsterville, 1979, *Orchids of Venezuela: An Ilustrated Field Guide*, page 1005, for an excellent illustration of this species.