

159. **Stelis hydroidea** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *hydroideus*, "like a hydroid," referring to the long-pubescent callus on the dorsum of the lip.

Planta parva caespitosa, racemo congesto foliis ellipticis longiore, floribus atropurpureis, sepalis late ovatis obtusis, petalis transverse oblongis et labello subquadrato obtuso cum callo dorsale rotundo longipubescentibus distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, fasciculate, 10-20 mm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath from below the middle and another from above the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-obovate, subacute to obtuse, 2-4.5 cm long including a petiole 0.5-1 cm long, the blade 4-8 mm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, more or less arching, congested, simultaneously several-flowered raceme, 4-6.5 cm long including the peduncle 3-4 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul, with a spathe 3-4 mm long; floral bracts oblique, inflated, acute, 2.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; flowers dark purple; **sepals** expanded, glabrous, broadly ovate, broadly obtuse, connate below the middle, the dorsal sepal 2.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals 2.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** transversely oblong-obovate, broadly rounded at the apex with a thickened margin, shallowly concave, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** thick, transversely subquadrate, 0.75 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 0.75 mm deep, the apex rounded, concave anteriorly, the dorsum with a rounded, long-pubescent callus, the bar protuberant with a rounded glenion, the base broadly truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.75 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Loja: above Yangana, north of the pass, alt. 2400 m, 23 Mar. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & W. Flores 10867 (Holotype: MO).

Zamora-Chinchi: Cordillera de Cajanuma, south of Yangana, alt. 2450 m, 12 May 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 6188 (SEL); same area, alt. 2250 m, 11 May 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 6152 (MO).

This species of southeastern Ecuador is distinguished by a small, caespitose habit; a weak, congested, simultaneously several-flowered raceme of small, dark purple flowers that barely surpasses the elliptical leaves; broadly obtuse sepals; transversely suboblong petals with a thickened margin; and a transverse, obtuse lip with a rounded, long-pubescent callus on the dorsum.

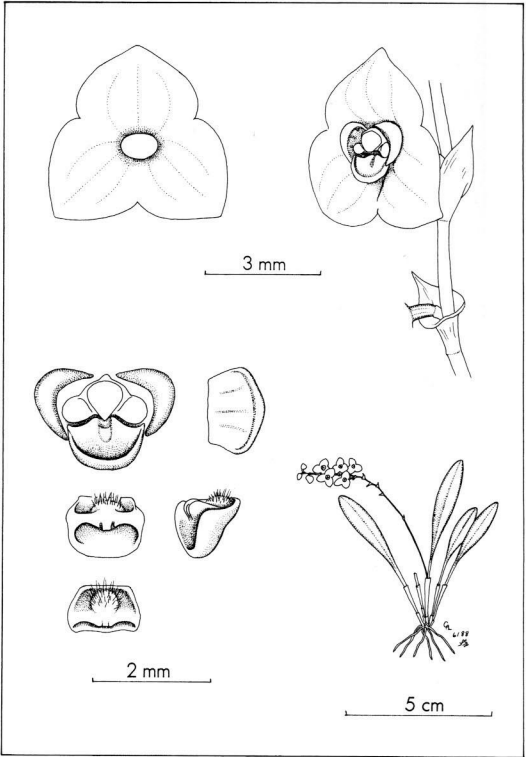


Fig. 159. Stelis hydroidea