

116. *Stelis multiflora* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *multiflorus*, "many-flowered," referring to the inflorescence.

Inter species sect. *Humboldtiae*, species haec grandis pluriracemosa racemis multifloris minutiflorisque folio plusminusve aequilongis, petalis tenuis concavis, et labello antice concavo distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, presumably caespitose (broken at base). Ramicauls erect, slender, 15-19 cm long, enclosed by a close, tubular sheath near the middle and another at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, 9-14 cm long including a petiole 1.5 cm long, the blade 2-2.6 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of 5-8 erect, congested, distichous, many-flowered racemes with most flowers open simultaneously, 10-13 cm long including the peduncle 1-2.5 cm long, with a spathe 1.5 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, broad, 2 mm long; pedicels 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** fleshy, yellow, microscopically pubescent within, the dorsal sepal oblong, convex with recurved sides, obtuse, connate basally, 4 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals oblique, connate midway and in apposition to the tips into a concave synsepal with recurved margins, 3.25 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, 6-veined; **petals** thin, yellow, transversely obovate, shallowly concave below the broadly obtuse, ill-defined margin, 0.6 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, thick, subtriangular, 0.6 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, the apex broadly rounded, concave anterior to the bar, with a minute, cleft-like glenion, the dorsum with a rounded, pubescent callus, the base broadly truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.6 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, the anther and the stigma apical, with the stigma bilobed, the foot obsolescent.

Azuay: Cordillera de Molleturo, forest above Río Shurimal, alt. 1100 m, 27 Jan. 1992, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, A. & P. Jesup 16185 (Holotype: MO).

Among the members of section *Humboldtia*, this species is characterized by 5-8 simultaneous, many-flowered racemes with some of the smaller flowers of the section. The racemes reach nearly as long as the narrowly elliptical leaf. The sepals are fleshy with recurved margins; the petals are thin and concave; and the lip is deeply concave anteriorly with the apex broadly rounded.

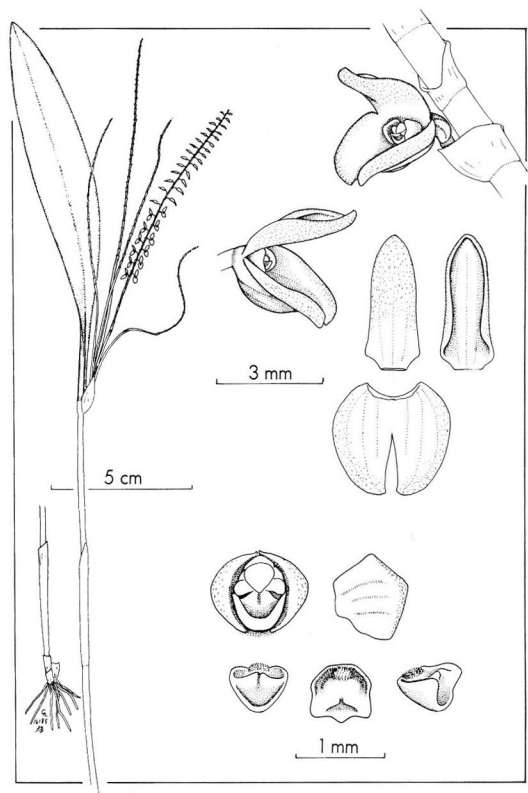


Fig. 116. *Stelis multiflora*