

158. *Stelis haltonii* Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Joseph Swain Halton (1945-1989) of Sarasota, Florida, co-collector of this species.

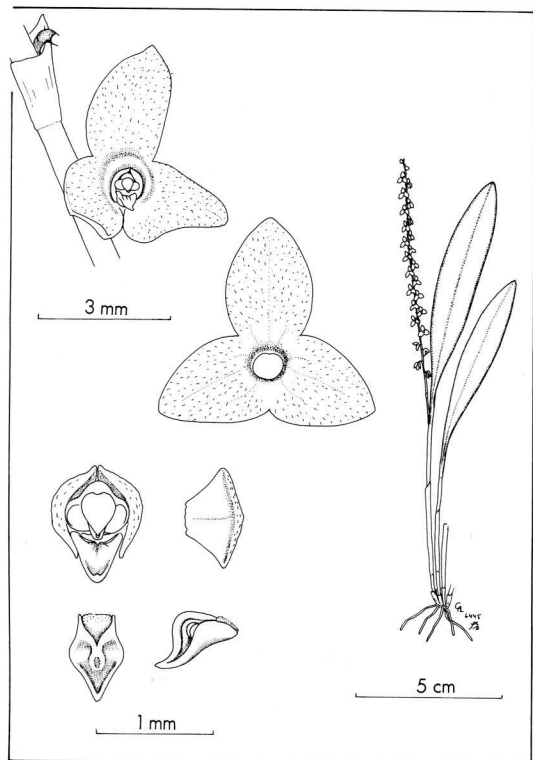
Planta mediocris, foliis anguste oblongis ramicaulibus gracilibus longioribus, racemo dense multifloro folio plus minusve aequilongo, sepalis ellipticis pubescentibus, petalis late cuneatis, labello rhombiformi acuto longiore quam latiore distinguitur.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3-7.5 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath near the middle and 2-3 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute to subacute, 7-10 cm long including an indistinct petiole 1-1.5 cm long, the blade 1.2-1.5 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, congested, distichous, many-flowered raceme with most flowers open simultaneously, 9-12 cm long including the peduncle ca. 1.5 cm long, subtended by a slender spathe 5 mm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, 2.5 mm long; pedicels 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; **sepals** greenish white, glabrous externally, pubescent within, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, the dorsal sepal erect, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate basally to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals opposite, connate basally, 2.3 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** greenish white, transversely cuneate, shallowly concave, with the margin thickened and transversely subtruncate, 0.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** greenish white, thick, rhombic, acute, 0.75 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 0.2 mm thick, shallowly concave above the middle, a glenion on the transverse thickening, the base with a flat, minutely pubescent callus, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Napo:** Auca Oil Field, alt. 240 m, collected by J. Halton et al., Feb. 1979, flowered in cultivation 25 Aug. 1981, *C. Luer 6445* (Holotype: SEL); near Baeza, alt. 1900 m, 23 Feb. 1982, *C. Luer & H. Hirtz 7394* (SEL); between Tena and Puerto Napo, alt. 450 m, 18 June 1983, *C.H. Dodson et al. 14086* (SEL); Puerto Misahualli, La Cruz, Arajuno, alt. 500 m, July 1984, *A. Suarez & C. Lindberg de Suarez 159* (MO). **Morona-Santiago:** Chiviasa, east of Limón, alt. 1300 m, 23 Oct. 1999, *A. Hirtz, E. Sánchez & S. Marin 7032a* (MO).

**Loja:** between Alamor and Puyango, alt. 500 m, 2 Apr. 1980, *G. Harling & L. Andersson 17790, 17791* (AMES, GB).

This species, apparently endemic in the lowland of eastern Ecuador, is characterized by slender ramicauls with somewhat longer, narrowly oblong leaves that are surpassed by a slender, congested raceme of small, greenish white flowers. The sepals, pubescent within, are elliptical with the laterals in opposite directions. The petals are broadly subtruncate. The lip is rhombic, longer than wide, with the apex acute and the base with a broad, minutely pubescent callus.

Fig. 158. *Stelis haltonii*