

Stelis karenae Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. San José: Cantón de Vásquez de Coronado, near Zurqui Station, alt. 1650 m, 26 Oct. 1990, S. Ingram & Karen Ingram-Ferrell 626 (Holotype: CR; Isotype: SEL). Fig. 31.

Planta grandis caespitosa, racemo subaxe multifloro longissimo, folio elliptico acuto petiolato, sepalis carnosis marginibus longipubescentibus revolutis, floribus non-resupinatis, sepalo mediani ovato, sepalis lateralibus brevioribus in synsepalum late concavum connatis, marginibus petalo-

rum incrassatis microscopicè pubescentibus, labello subquadrato obtuso dorso pubescenti.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls erect, stout, 6–12 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath from near the middle and 2–3 other sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, petiolate, 9–13 cm long including the petiole 1.5–2 cm long, 1.8–2.8 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, subdense, distichous, many-flowered raceme with several flowers open simultaneously, 32–48 cm long including the peduncle 15–25 cm long, subtended by a spathe ca. 5 mm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts infundibular, oblique, acute, 4 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; flowers bilabiate; **sepals** fleshy with revolute margins, red-purple, glabrous externally, long pubescent on the outer thirds, the dorsal sepal directed forward, ovate, narrowly obtuse to rounded, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide, 5-veined, connate 2 mm to the synsepal, the lateral sepals connate 2 mm and held in apposition into a broadly ovate, deeply concave synsepal, 5.5 mm long, 5 mm wide expanded, 2–3 mm deep, each 4-veined; **petals** purple, transversely triangular, obtuse, 1.2 mm long, 2.2 mm wide, concave across the base, transversely thickened across the middle, the apical margin broadly thickened, flattened, cellular-glandular, 3-veined; **lip** purple, thick, subquadrate, 1 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, 0.8 mm deep, the anterior surface shallowly concave with a long glenion, the apex broadly rounded, transversely thickened across the middle, the dorsum convex, densely short-pubescent, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Karen Ingram-Ferrell, co-collector of this species.

This large, handsome species is characterized by the well-developed ramicauls and elliptical, petiolate leaves. The inflorescence flowers successively, several flowers simultaneously, to reach up to 48 centimeters in length. The sepals of the non-resupinate flowers are fleshy with recurved, long-ciliate margins. The lateral sepals are held uppermost into a concave synsepal that covers the central apparatus. The middle sepal protrudes from below. The margins of the petals are thick

and microscopically pubescent. The dorsum of the subquadrate lip is densely short-pubescent.

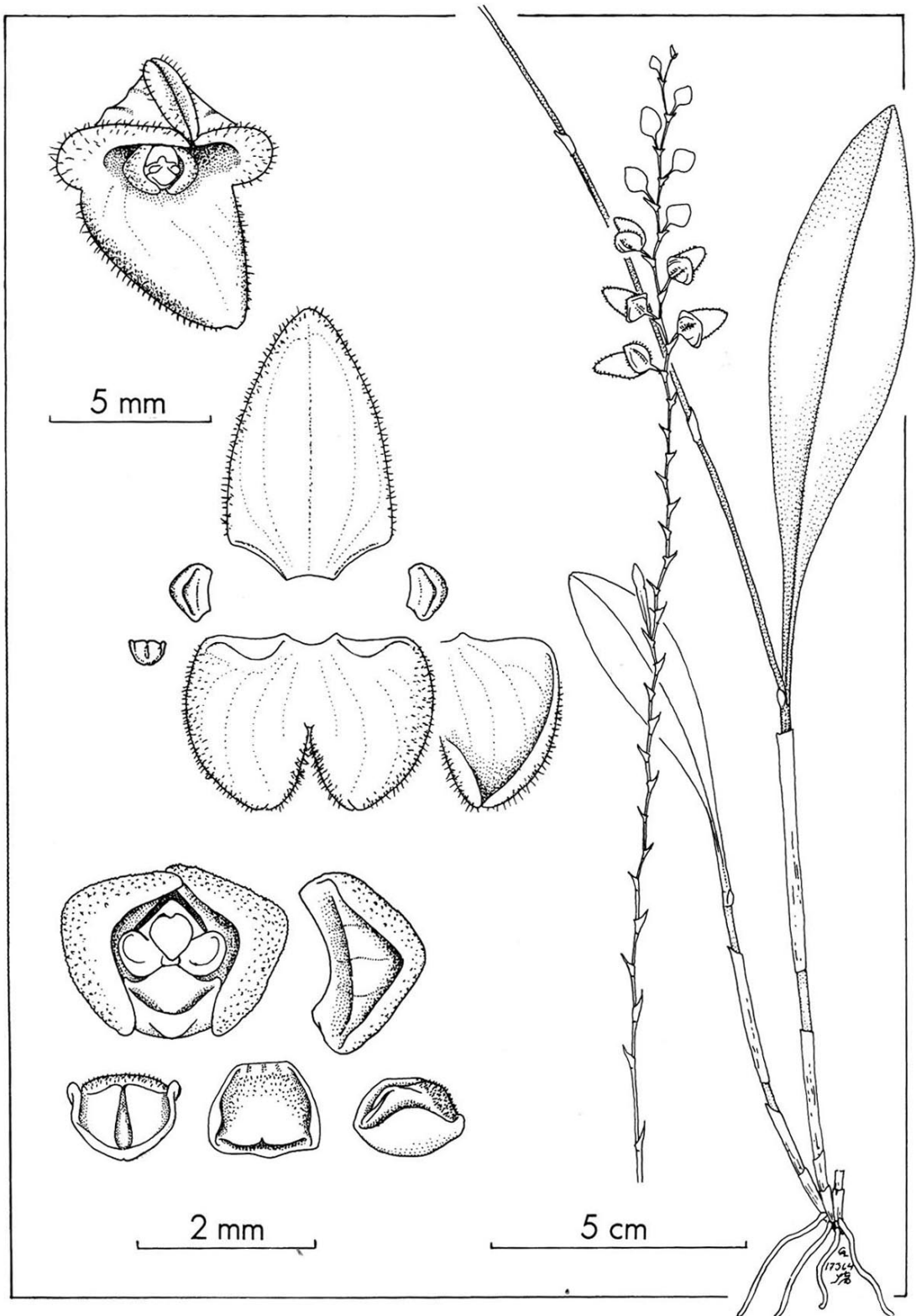


Fig. 31. *Stelis karenae*