

Stelis meganthera Luer, sp. nov. TYPE: Panama.
Chiriquí: Cerro Colorado, alt. 650–700 m,
16 Feb. 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. & K.
Dressler 1453 (Holotype: SEL).

FIGURE 17.

Species haec *S. parvulae* Lindl. similis, sed foliis angustioribus, bracteis floralis parvis tubulosis, sepalis albis glabris, sepalis lateralibus obliquis quam sepalo dorsali minoribus et anthera magna distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** erect, slender, 1–1.5 cm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths. **Leaf**

erect, coriaceous, narrowly linear obovate, semiterete, obtuse, apiculate, 3–6 cm long, 0.2–0.3 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into the base. **Inflorescence** an erect, distichous, subdensely many-flowered raceme, 4–7 cm long including the peduncle 2–3 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, acute, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long. **Sepals** white, glabrous, connate basally, unequal in size, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, subacute, 1.6 mm long, 1.4 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals ovate,

subacute, oblique, 1.4 mm long, 1 mm wide. **Petals** transversely obovate-flabellate, broadly rounded and thickened along the apical margins, 0.5 mm long, 0.6 mm wide. **Lip** oblong, triangular in side-view, 0.5 mm long, 0.4 mm wide, 0.3 mm deep, the apex triangular, acute, concave, the dorsum with an oblong callus, with a glenion on the anterior surface, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column. **Column** 0.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, with the foot obsolescent, the anther apical, 5 mm long, 5 mm wide, the stigma bilobed.

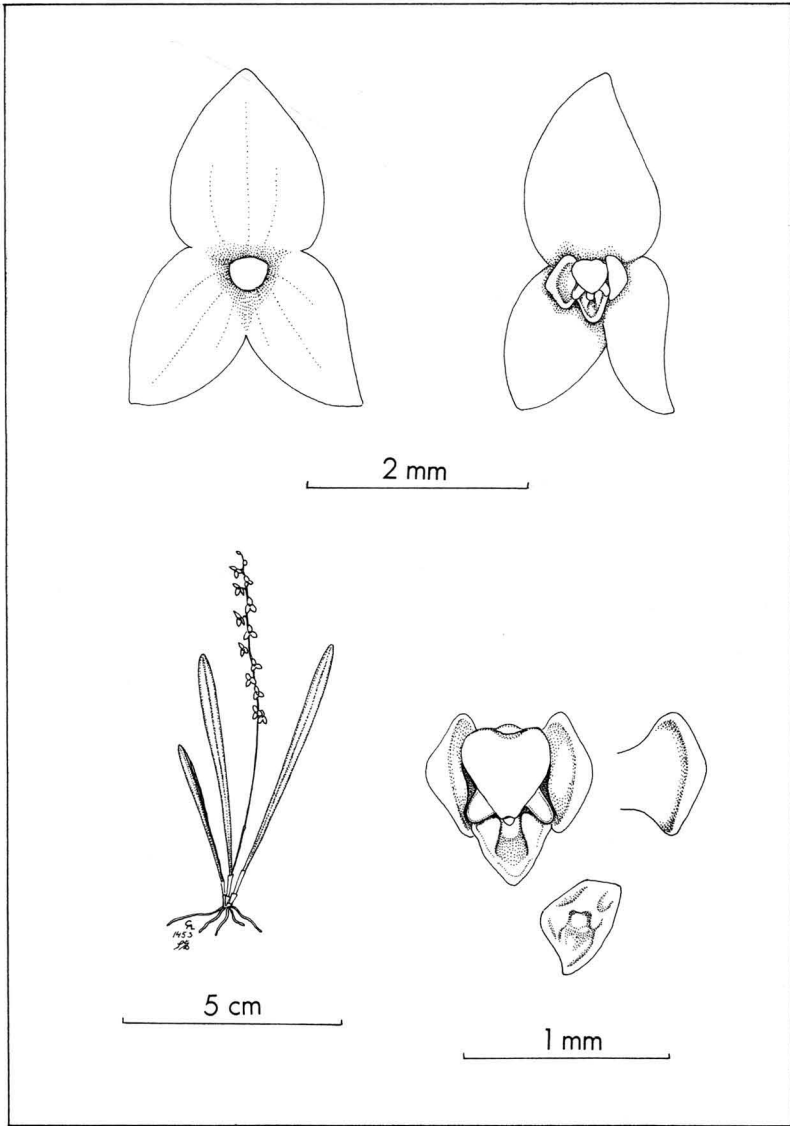


FIGURE 17. *Stelis meganthera* Luer.

Etymology. From the Greek *meganthera*, “with large anther,” referring to the anther cap.

This species, known only from western Panama, is similar to *Stelis parvula*, but it differs in significant details. *Stelis meganthera* is characterized by a small habit with short ramicauls; linear, semiterete leaves 2–3 mm wide; inconspicuous floral bracts; white, glabrous, subacute sepals; a slightly proportionately large dorsal sepal; flabellate petals; an oblong lip with an acute apex; and a proportionately large anther, larger than the lip.