

Stelis semperflorens Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, caulibus secundariis foliis obovatis multibrevioribus, racemo perlongo flexuoso floribus successivis, sepalis similibus ovatis obtusis recurvatis supra medium breviter pubescentibus, petalis transverse obovatis apice rotundatis incrassatis, labello crasso subquadrato apice rotundato.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stems unifoliate, abbreviated, 5-8 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 ribbed, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical-obovate, 2-3 cm long, 6-9 mm wide, the apex obtuse, minutely notched, with an apiculum, cuneate below into a subpetiolate base. Inflorescence a progressively lengthening, loosely flowered, flexuous, flexible raceme up to 32 cm long, 7-10 mm between flowers, 2-6 flowers produced simultaneously, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bracts thin, close, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 1-1.5 mm long; sepals similar, purple below the middle, dull white and shortly pubescent above the middle, ovate, obtuse, recurved, connate basally, 1.75 mm long, 1.75 mm wide; petals green, suffused with purple, transversely obovate, 0.8 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded and thickened with the surface glandular-cellular; lip purple, subquadrate from above, triangular from the side, 0.4 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, with a transverse callus, shallowly concave to the rounded apex, the dorsum more or less flat and soft-cellular, with a low, rounded, central callus; column stout, the stigma bilobed.

Etymology: From the Latin *sempreflorens*, "always in flower," referring to a quality of the species.

Type: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic in cloud forest on Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m, 2 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. L. Dressler 966 (Holotype: SEL).

Distribution: Eastern Panama.

During the more than five years that this little species has been in cultivation at SEL, it has been constantly in flower. It has produced numerous, progressively lengthening racemes each of which flowers continuously for about a year. The much smaller habit separates it from *S. vestita* Ames.