



FIGURE 19. *Stelis veraguasensis* Luer.

C. Luer & R. Dressler 1235 (Holotype: SEL). FIGURE 19.

Species haec *S. lankesteri* Ames similis, sed habitu floribusque majoribus, petalis cordatis acutis leviter acuminatis, et labello ad apicem subacuto apiculato difert.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** erect, stout, 6–8 cm long, enclosed by 2 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, petiolate, with the apex obtuse to rounded, 10–15 cm long including the petiole 1.5–2 cm long, 4–5.5 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect,

Stelis veraguasensis Luer, sp. nov. TYPE: Panama. Veraguas: alt. ca. 500 m, 5 Sept. 1976,

subdense, distichous, many-flowered, raceme with several flowers open simultaneously, 15–20 cm long including the peduncle 3–5 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts infundibular, 3 mm long; pedicels 3 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; flowers bilabiate. **Sepals** glabrous, bright purple externally, cellular-glandular, greenish purple within, the dorsal sepal erect, elliptical, obtuse, convex, 12.5 mm long, 8.5 mm wide, 5(–9)-veined, connate basally to the synsepal, the lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovate, shallowly concave synsepal, 10 mm long, 11 mm wide, 8-veined. **Petals** broadly overlapping above the column, purple, edged in green, cordate-triangular, 2.25 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex broadly thickened, acute, slightly acuminate, the base narrowly concave. **Lip** red, ovoid, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex subacute, apiculate, thickened along the

margin, the base transversely thickened with a large glenion, truncate, hinged to the base of the column. **Column** stout, 0.75 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the stigma apical, the stigma bilobed.

Etymology. Named for the Panamanian province of Veraguas, where the species was collected.

This species is apparently rare in central Panama. It is a large, robust plant with a tall raceme of large, bilabiate flowers. Appearing as a gigantic variation of the Costa Rican *Stelis lankesteri*, it differs from the latter in the following: a larger habit with twice broader leaves; twice larger floral parts; acute, slightly acuminate, cordate-ovate petals; and lip with the apical margin thick and subacute with a small, rounded apiculum.