



***Stenia chasmatochila* sp. nov.**

1. Flower viewed from front. 2. Labellum side view. 3. Labellum, front view, removed.
 4. Lateral Sepal. 5. Petal. 6. Dorsal Sepal.

A SHOWY NEW SPECIES FROM COSTA RICA

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The care and cleverness with which the German collectors of Klotzsch and Reichenbach combed the jungles of Costa Rica in the mid 1800's is well known and publicized. Further, it would appear that Schlechter's collectors in the early 1900's seemed to find what few showy species had not been uncovered up until that date. As I have stated elsewhere, about the only things we have found of significance since these elaborate collections have either been the result of opening up of microclimatic pockets to which the topography denied access, or more commonly plants overlooked because out of flower they appeared like immature forms of very abundant species. It would appear our present subject falls in the latter category for in flower it is one of the showiest species of its entire tribe.

The discovery of this little rarity, like so many other adventures referable to orchid study, represents in itself several worthwhile lessons. The Arboretum Orchid Research Collection was preparing an extensive treatise on the *Kefersteinia* and *Chondrorhyncha* species from Costa Rica and as part of this program we had made extensive collections in November 1960 in these genera of habitat-collected plants while in the country. We had further enlisted Mr. Clarence Kl. Horich of that country to keep us supplied with plants of these genera (bearing careful locality data) after our initial field trip, which he had so ably personally guided. I was not surprised, therefore, when a parcel arrived in which were a selection of rarities from him collected March 1, 1961 in the Sarapiquí jungles sur-

rounding the Cariblanco District of Costa Rica. In the shipment were 4 plants labelled "Chondrorhyncha species?" and then the locality. Three of them were from the area around Cariblanco but the fourth carried the label "Rare, shore jungles of La Laguna del Cerro Congo, 650 m, NW of Cariblanco." The first three plants were potted up and all subsequently have flowered out as various *Kefersteinia* species, but the last plant had such severe treatment in fumigation I held little hope for its survival. Rather than discard it entirely, however, amongst the dry leaves I saw a tiny green "eye" and decided instead to give it to Mrs. Marie Turner of Temple City to nurse along for me. Mrs. Turner had a reputation for being able to save even the most difficult rarities, but I thought this would prove even too great a problem for her. Nonetheless, she accepted the little, living bit of tissue and commenced nursing it along with the sphagnum moss-plastic bag treatments which were her stock in trade. Somehow, I forgot about the plant entirely as the years slipped by.

Meanwhile, our collections of *Chondrorhyncha* and *Kefersteinia* continued to grow and were fortified by another trip which took me to La Laguna del Cerro Congo from whence additional collections were made. In fact the entire country was thoroughly combed for the little members of these genera in the hope we might turn up a new one. One evening I had finished putting together an elaborately illustrated paper based on these collections and entitled "A Revision of the Central American Spe-



Stenia chasmatochila sp. nov. Rare, shore jungles of La Laguna del Cerro Congo, approximately 14 Km. NW of Cariblanco, 650m. elev., Sarapiquí District, Costa Rica F62CR79.5 collected by Clarence Kl. Horich.

cies of *Chondrorhyncha* and *Kefersteinia*," when the phone rang. It was of course Mrs. Turner who asked if I remembered the little rarity of 3½ years ago I had left in her care! Further, it was in flower and would I be interested in seeing it. Confidently, I made an appointment expecting it to fall somewhere amongst the other hundred or so collected plants of *Kefersteinia* and *Chondrorhyncha* I had just finished writing up.

I arrived at Mrs. Turner's collections at dusk the following evening, whence she greeted me with the plant concealed in a plastic bag. As I waited for her to reach in and bring out a little *Kefersteinia* species with insignificant flowers, you can imagine my amazement when out came a gaudy, extremely floriferous plant with pure yellow 1½" diameter flowers. Stunned

by the sheer beauty of the rarity, it required a while before I realized here was a new species of *Stenia* for Costa Rica . . . but what a species! There were about a dozen or so buds, two of which were open, emerging from a crown of leaves that were indistinguishable from a lowly *Kefersteinia*. Unlike the *Stenia* species I had personally collected in Trinidad and Colombia, this species had a labellum which was opened completely and not laterally constricted. I lost no time in getting the plant to Mrs. Rosalie Roth, who soon completed the magnificent reproduction which accompanies this article, illustrating features of the plant. Fortunately, the plant still bore its collection tag.

It would seem this discovery depended on the perspicacity of Mr. Clarence Kl. Horich in collecting it

amongst hundreds of very similar insignificant *Kefersteinias*, together with Mrs. Turner's determination to save it and raise it to maturity. To these individuals, along with the artist, Mrs. Rosali Roth, I owe a debt of thanks. I name it for the peculiar open labelum, which at once distinguishes it from the other members of the genus to which it belongs.

Stenia chasmatochila J. A. Fowlie, sp. nov.
Epiphytica, erecta 10-14 cm. alba sine propinquis proximis; rhizomate breve abbreviato; radicibus flexuosis, filiformibus; pseudobulbis absentibus; foliis in quoque surculo c.c. 2-5, erecto-patentibus, linearis-ligulatis, acuminatis, vaginam versus paulo angustatis, vagina inclusa usque ad 10-16 cm. longis, supra medium 1.8-3.2 cm. latis; inflorescentiis ex axillis vaginarum singulis natis, 4-4.8 cm. longis, supra basin diametente: bractea triangulari, .8-1 cm. longis supra ovarium cucullate; flore conspicuo, ad 4-4.5 cm. diametente, citrino et immaculato, non resupinato; sepalis ovatis, 2-2.4 cm. longis, .8-1 cm. latis, concavis; petalis elliptico-ovatis 1.6-1.8 cm. longis, et 1.4 cm. latis acuminatis; labello valde concavo-saccato, 1.8 cm. longo patente, callo formis ligulato-spathulato cum apice truncato ad 5 mm. longum et 3 mm. latum; columna cum pede distincto, .3-.5 cm. longo; pollinia 4 subaequalis. *Diagnosis:* solum species *Stenia* cum labello patente.

Type: Deposited in the herbarium at UCLA, isotype in liquid deposited in the herbarium of Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia. F62CR79.5 "Rare, Shore Jungles of La Laguna del Cerro Congo 650 m. (approximately 14 km. NW of Cariblanco), Sarapiquí District, Costa Rica." Clarence Kl. Horich collected March, 1961.

I am obliged to the kindness of Mrs. Rosalie Roth for the excellent botanical drawing of this rarity which accompanies this article.

This experience has led me to believe we must be increasingly careful not to pass by plants which we feel are juvenile forms of common adult species when collecting in the jungles. Possibly the best way to avoid this error is to look for withered flower spikes emerging from the little plants. I would think that if particular attention would be paid to such differences which Mr. Horich has exploited to a remarkable degree in his discoveries, many additional showy species might be uncovered.—5201 La Forest Drive, La Canada, California.