

Stelis Alfaroii A. & S. *sp. nov.* Caules secundarii conspicui, monophylli. Folium oblique lanceolatum, coriaceum. Inflorescentiae binae, dense multiflorae. Flores parvi. Sepala perlate ovata, quinquenervia, lateralia obliqua. Petala cuneato-obovata, apice incrassata. Labellum semi-orbiculare, antice truncatum.

Plant tall and stout for the genus. Secondary stems conspicuous, over 15 cm. tall (incomplete below), about 3 mm. in diameter, monophyllous, striate-sulcate in the dried specimen, in anthesis with the fibres of long tubular sheaths. Leaf obliquely lanceolate, 15 cm. long, 3.2 cm. wide, narrowed to a more or less rounded apex (tip broken off), shortly cuneate-narrowed into a short channelled petiole which is about 2 cm. long, thickly coriaceous, with the mid-nerve sulcate above and bluntly carinate beneath. Inflorescences (of a single flowering season) two, 16–21 cm. long, arising from a prominent conduplicate lanceolate sheath which is 2.2–2.5 cm. long. Peduncle below the raceme short, about 3.5 cm. long, with a single tubular bract. Racemes suberect to arcuate-spreading, many-flowered, very dense above but loose at the base, secund-flowered. Floral bracts hyaline, subequaling the pedicellate ovary. Flowers very small, spreading, glabrous. Sepals connate at the base for nearly half their length. Lateral sepals very broadly ovate, oblique; free portion 1.6 mm. long, acute, 4–5-nerved with the nerves carinate on the outside. Dorsal sepal similar but a little larger, distinctly 5-nerved with the lateral nerves short. Petals much smaller, cuneate-obovate, about .9 mm. long, apex fleshy-thickened, especially in the centre, with three approximate nerves. Labellum similar to the petals, semiorbicular, broadly truncate in front but with a slight median protuberance. Disc 3-nerved, provided near the apex with a semilunar lamella. Column typical of the genus.

Stelis Alfaroii is remarkable in having very small flowers with 5-nerved sepals and peculiar labellum. It differs from its closest allies *S. Bourgeavii* Schltr. and *S. irvata* Schltr. in the form of the labellum.

COSTA RICA, La Fuente, *Anastasio Alfaro s. n.*, October 7, 1924. 1200 metres altitude. Flowers purplish green. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 29011.)