

STELIS *Allenii* L. O. Williams, sp. nov. (pl. 32, figs. 1-3). Herbae caespitosae, epiphyticae, usque ad 4 dm. altae. Folia elliptica vel elliptico-ovalia, acuta vel obtusa. Inflorescentia elongata; bracteae ovato-lanceolatae, acutae vel acuminatae, infundibuliformes. Sepalum dorsale lanceolatum, acutum, cucullatum. Sepala lateralina connata, suborbiculari-ovata, acuta vel obtusa, cucullata et gibbosa. Petala late flabellata vel transverse ovalia. Labellum flabellatum, truncatum, apice callo transverso ornatum.

Large caespitose epiphytic herbs up to 4 dm. tall. Secondary stems 7-15 cm. long, 0.25-0.35 cm. in diameter, covered with 2 or 3 loose sheaths which soon disintegrate, shorter than the leaves. Leaves 10-19 cm. long, 3.5-7 cm. broad, elliptic to elliptic-oval, acute or obtuse, coriaceous, attenuated into a short petiole at the base. Inflorescence up to 30 cm. long, floriferous to the base, 1 or more borne from the apex of the stems (if more than 1 then presumably borne in different years); sheaths up to 2.5 cm. long, cucullate, ample; bracts 2-18 mm. long, reduced upward, ovate-lanceolate, acute or acuminate, infundibuliform. Flowers largest of the genus. Dorsal sepal 14-16 mm. long, 5-6 mm. broad, lanceolate, acute, 11-13-nerved, cucullate. Lateral sepals connate to their apices, together 10-12 mm. long and 8-10 mm. broad, suborbicular-ovate, acute or obtuse, cucullate and gibbous at the base, many-nerved. Petals about 1 mm. long, 1.5 mm. broad, broadly flabellate to transversely oval, the apex much thickened. Lip 0.75-1 mm. long, 1-1.4 mm. broad, about 0.75 mm. thick at the apex, flabellate, truncate, with a transverse callus at the apex of the lip,—very like the petals but slightly smaller.—COCLÉ: hills north of El Valle de Antón, alt. 800 m., (flowers nearly black), April 10, 1942, *Allen 2952* (Herb. Ames, TYPE).

Stelis Allenii is perhaps the most distinctive species of this difficult genus in Central America and seems to be the largest-flowered species of the genus. There are no near allies in Central America but the species seems to belong to Lindley's section *Dialissa*, a section with but a few species in the Andes.