



5. **STELIS COMICA** Duque, sp. nov.

(Pl. II, 3-6; Pl. X, 1)

Planta pusilla caespitosa vel rhizomate breviter ascendente. Caulus secundarius vagina obtectus. Folio angusto et elliptico. Racemo paucifloro subflexuoso folio longiore. Floribus albis-flavis parvis. Sepalis similibus ovatis obtusis. Petalis lateribus divergentibus, apice rotundatis. Labello lateri triangulari, apice acuto, disco bicalloso. Rostellum columnae longe protratum.

TIPO: Colombia, Antioquia, epífita en monte neblinoso entre El Santuario y Cocorná alt. 2.100 m, O. Duque enero 1990; florece en cultivo oct. 11, 1990. O. Duque 1232 (Holotipo: JAUM). Nicolás Peláez monte neblinoso en Páramo de Sonsón alt. 2.300 m. O. Duque 1174.

ETIMOLOGIA: del latín *comicus*, referente a la comedia, porque la flor vista con la lente, de perfil, simula el atuendo que adornaba la cabeza del bufón medieval con su larga nariz representada por el largo rostelo y los ojos por los stigmas.

From the latin *comicus*, pertaining to the comedy; when seen from the side with a lens, the flower looks like the head of a medieval buffoon with its long nose represented by the rostellum, the eyes by the stigmata, and the petals and sepals the head dress.

Plantica caespitosa muy pequeña con tallos cortos de 0.8 cm envainados, hoja erecta, elíptica, angosta, 2 x 0.3 cm, aguda peciolada. Los racimos, más largos que las hojas, llevan diminutas florecitas verde amarillas con sépalos libres extendidos, de 3 venas y pétalos univenados. el rostelo es prominente.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose to shortly ascendent. Secondary stems 0.8 - 1 cm long covered by 2-3 brown tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect narrowly elliptical 2 cm long 0.3 cm wide, apex acute tridenticulate, base narrowing into a slender 4 mm, petiole. **Inflorescence** a slender erect or slightly arching, distichous, loosely flowered subflexuos raceme 5 cm long, from a node at the base of the leaf. Floral bract thin 1 mm long, concealing the pedicel. Ovary 0.8 cm long. Flowers very small, yellow-green, that open progressively from the base of the scape leaving a multibracteate peduncle. **Sepals** similar widespread connate at the base, narrowly ovate, obtuse, glabrous, 1.4 mm long, 0.35 mm wide, 3-veined. **Petals** flabellate, apex thick rounded 0.4 mm high, 0.6 mm wide, 1-veined. **Lip** obscurely 3-lobed, laterally triangular, the apex acute, the base truncate, 0.5 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, the disc with a solid callus divided by the glenion and by a shallow longitudinal groove. **Column** 0.7 mm long, 0.5 mm wide the stigmatic lobes confluent under a very long protruding rostellum.

NOTAS: *S. comica* parece ser común en los Andes de Colombia. Se puede distinguir fácilmente por su pequeño tamaño, las hojitas acintadas estrechas puntudas, el pétalo univenado y el aspecto de bufón cuando la flor se mira de lado bajo la lente. El hábito de la plantica recuerda en algo el aspecto de las plantas del grupo de *S. pusilla* H.B.K. pero éstas son mayores y la estructura floral es algo diferente.

S. comica appears to be common in the Colombian Andes. It may be distinguished by its small size, narrow strap-like pointed leaves, 1-veined petals, and peculiar buffoon-like appearance of the flower when seen from the side with a lens. The habit of this small plant is somewhat similar to that of the group of *S. pusilla* H.B.K. but these plants are larger and the floral structure is different.

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