



9. ***STELIS FRANCISCANA*** Duque, sp. nov.

(Pl. III, 7-9; Pl. XI, 1)

Planta parva, rhizomate brevi reptante, caulibus secundariis brevibus, tectis vaginis tubularibus. Foliis oblongis, obtusis. Inflorescentia unica, longa,

florescente ad extremum, longiore folio. Sepalis ovatis patentibus, glabris. Petalis suborbicularibus cuculatis. Labello apice incurvo, basi pubescente.

TIPO: Colombia, Antioquia: paraje Musinga, municipio de Frontino, epífita en bosque neblinoso alt. 2.200 m, julio 1994, Francisco Villegas. Florece en cultivo diciembre 1995. O. Duque 1890 (Holotipo: JAUM).

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada en honor de mi amigo Francisco Villegas, entusiasta orquidófilo de Medellín, quien descubrió la especie.

Named in honor of my friend Francisco Villegas, enthusiastic orchidophile from Medellín, who discovered the species.

Plantica pequeña, epífita, con rizoma corto ascendente. Tallos de 4 cm de largo. Hojas oblongas de 4 x 2 cm pecioladas. Inflorescencia un largo racimo con flores solo hacia la extremidad. Flores rosadas a púrpura; sépalos libres glabros trivenados. Pétalos cuculados con una a tres venas, a veces rudimentarias. Labelo alargado subcuadrado ganchudo en la extremidad, y un callo verrucoso en la base.

Plant small to medium size. Secondary stems unifoliate 4 x 0.2 cm covered by 3 fibrous sheaths, borne on a short creeping rhizome. **Leaf** erect, oblong, 4 x 2 cm, the apex obtuse minutely tridentate, narrowing below into an 8 cm long petiole. **Inflorescence** a slender erect raceme 24 cm long including the 19 cm long bracteate peduncle, bearing flowers at the upper 6 cm only, from an 8 mm long spathe at the end of the stem. Floral bract navicular-cordate, acute, oblique 2 mm long. Pedicel 1 mm long, ovary 1.2 mm long. Flowers arranged irregularly at the rachis. **Sepals** patent, similar ovate-obtuse, pale pink at the extrimities purplish at the center, glabrous but diminutively papillose within ; dorsal sepal 3.1 mm long, the lateral sepals oblique, slightly smaller, triveined. **Petals** thin, suborbicular, 1.1 mm wide, 1 mm high, the apex cucullate, 3-veined, the lateral veins sometimes rudimentary. **Lip** thick, laterally irregularly oblong, irregularly subquadrate from above, obscurely trilobed, the apex hamate, the lateral lobes erect, the disc occupied by a raised callus divided by the long narrow glenion, ending basally in a villous plate, 1 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, the undersurface microscopically villous. **Column** stout, the underside shortly villous, the stigma bilobed.

NOTAS: *S. franciscana* es una linda plantica reconocible por su corto rizoma rastrero, las hojas oblongas obtusas y el racimo desmesuradamente largo para el tamaño de la planta. El labelo es de forma complicada con el ápice en gancho y la base del callo vellosa, levemente parecido al labelo de *S. trichorrhachis* Rchb., pero las plantas son muy diferentes.

S. franciscana is a pretty little plant recognizable by its short creeping rhizome, its oblong obtuse leaves, and by its disproportionately long raceme for the

size of the plant, bearing flowers only at the extremity. The lip is rather complex in shape, hooked at the apex, villous at the base of the callus, slightly similar to the lip of *S. trichorrhachis* Rchb. although the plants are very different.

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