

Stelis inaequalis Ames sp. nov. Herba parvula, epiphytica. Caules secundarii dense caespitosi, erecti vel ascendentes, valde abbreviati, monophylli. Folium oblanceolatum, apice rotundatum, usque ad basim angustatum. Pedunculus quam folium multo longior, paucibracteatus, bracteis vaginantibus. Racemus plus minusve decemflorus. Flores in sicco atrobrunnei, bilabiati. Sepala lateralia abbreviata, usque ad apicem plus minusve cohaerentia, laminam transverse ellipticam formantia, supra medium valde deflexa. Sepalum dorsale valde dissimile, oblongum, obtusum, trinervium. Petala flabellata, leviter incrassata. Labellum apice carnosum, subquadratum, trinervium, antice excavatum, truncatum, utrinque prope apicem minute lobulatum. Columna apice trilobata.

Secondary stems densely caespitose, up to 3 mm. long, concealed by an ample hyaline sheathing bract. Leaf about 2 cm. long, up to 5 mm. wide, oblanceolate, distinctly marginate, obscurely if at all bilobulate or bidentate at the obtuse tip, narrowed toward the base, coriaceous. Peduncle erect, with the raceme up to 5 cm. long, very slender, paucibracteate. Raceme 1.5 cm. long, about 5 mm. in diameter, ten or more flowered. Flowers dark brown, about 1 mm. apart. Bracts at the base of the pedicels infundibuliform, embracing the rachis, hyaline when dry. Pedicels hardly 1 mm. long. Lateral sepals 1 mm. long, coherent nearly to the apex, forming a transversely elliptical lamina which is 2 mm. wide, sharply deflexed at about the middle. Dorsal

CENTRAL AMERICAN ORCHIDS

sepal 2.5 mm. long, about 1 mm. wide, very unlike the lateral sepals, and with them giving a bilabiate aspect to the flower, 3-nerved, oblong, obtuse. Petals about .75 mm. long, broadly flabellate, thickened. Labellum .75 mm. long, subquadrate, rather thin below the middle, much thickened near the apex, strongly concave in front of the obtuse tip, 3-nerved. Column about equaling the petals in length, 3-lobed at the summit.

Stelis inaequalis is without near allies in the Central American flora. The unequal sepals and very distinctive labellum are differentiating characters.

PANAMA, Near San Juan in the foothills of the upper reaches of the Chagres River, *C. W. Powell* 272. Growing on upper side of large limbs of trees. Flowers chocolate-brown. Flowers in January and February. Sea level. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 23748.)