

ORCHIDACEAE QUAEDAM AMERICANAE

Stelis insignis *Ames sp. nov.* Herba caespitosa, caulibus secundariis validis. Folium carnosum, oblongo-ellipticum in petiolum brevem contractum. Racemi subdensiflori. Sepala similia, rotundato-ovalia. Petala conspicue cucullata, vix incrassata. Labellum basi cuneata, superne transverse ellipticum, apiculatum. Discus callo bilobo ornatus. Columna carnosae.

Roots fibrous, whitish, smooth, about 4 cm. long. Secondary stems caespitose, 17–18 cm. long, rigid, 3–4 mm. in diameter, sulcate in dried specimens, provided with a tubular sheath above the middle, which is 3–4 cm. long, closely appressed, scarious, brown-annulate at the point of origin. Leaf 11.5–13 cm. long, about 3.5 cm. wide, oblong-elliptic, obtuse, coriaceous, nervose when dry, midnerve prominent, at base contracted into a rigid sulcate petiole, shorter than the inflorescence. Petiole about 2 cm. long. Peduncles 3, arising through a closely appressed complanate sheath. Sheath 1.5 cm. long, prominently nerved. Peduncle

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with the raceme about 14 cm. long, rigid, erect, many-flowered, with several closely appressed tubular sheaths below the inflorescence. Raceme up to 9.5 cm. long, slender. Floral bracts about 2 mm. long, clasping the rachis, loosely appressed, acute. Pedicel with the ovary about 3 mm. long. Sepals coherent at base, subequal, the laterals 2 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, round-oval, obtuse, 3-nerved, margin smooth. Dorsal sepal 2.5 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, broadly ovate from a wide base, 3-nerved, obtuse. Petals hardly 1 mm. long, cuneate-suborbicular, distinctly cucullate at the rounded apex, hardly thickened (margin sharply bent inward to form a hood), 3-nerved. Labellum 1 mm. long, widely cuneate below the middle, apical half transversely elliptical, with an incurved apicule at the broad tip. Callus prominent on the disc, bilobed in front, the lobes rounded, porrect. Column fleshy, dilated at the apex.

In habit similar to *Stelis apiculata* Schltr., from which it differs in the hooded petals.

COLOMBIA, State of Cauca, Around Huila, Indian village in Rio Paez Valley, Tierra Adentro, *H. Pittier 1299*, January 1906. 1600–1900 meters altitude. (TYPE in U. S. Nat. Herb. No. 531497.)