

Stelis Lankesteri *Ames sp. nov.* Herba caespitosa, epiphytica. Caules secundarii vaginis inflatis complanatis investi, monophylli. Folium petiolatum. Lamina folii oblongo-elliptica, apice bilobata, apiculo interjecto, coriacea. Flores permagni, in racemum sublaxum dispositi, purpurei. Sepala lateralibus laminam suborbicularem formantibus, novem-nervia. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala rhombica, valde incrassata. Labellum valde incrassatum. Columna a basi dilatata.

Caespitose epiphytic herb, 20-22 cm. tall to apex of the inflorescence. Secondary stems erect or ascending, 4 cm. or more long, concealed by ample sheaths, the up-

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permost one 5 cm. long, complanate, obtuse, about 1 cm. wide at the summit, 3 mm. wide at the base, partly concealing the peduncle. Leaf distinctly petiolate; petiole about 2 cm. long, sulcate; lamina oblong-elliptic, 8.5–9 cm. long, 2–2.5 cm. wide, bilobulate and apiculate at the apex, coriaceous. Peduncle including the raceme up to 18.5 cm. long, solitary, arising 2 cm. below the insertion of the petiole, clothed at base with two ancipitous imbricating sheaths which are about 7 mm. long, paucibracteate below the raceme, slender. Raceme up to 11 cm. long, bearing about sixteen brown-purple flowers. Floral bracts infundibuliform, about 3 mm. long, equaling the pedicellate ovary. Lateral sepals united to the apex forming a suborbicular lamina which is 8 mm. long, 7.5 mm. wide, minutely glandular-pubescent within, 9-nerved, the nerves more or less prominent on the inner surface. Dorsal sepal about 9 mm. long, 7 mm. wide, ovate, obtuse, 9-nerved, coalescent at base with the lateral sepals, minutely glandular-pubescent within. Petals about 2 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, very fleshy, rhombic, subobtusely, anterior and posterior angles joined by a fleshy ridge. Labelum very fleshy, 1 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, with a raised transverse ridge, triangular in median longitudinal section. Column shorter than the petals, dilated upwards.

In the size of the flowers *Stelis Lankesteri* suggests *S. leucopogon* Reichb. f., from which it differs conspicuously in having the lateral sepals wholly coherent to form a suborbicular lamina. In the size of the flowers it is the largest species of the genus so far known to be a native of Central America, and is one of the largest flowered species of the genus.

COSTA RICA, La Florida, *C. H. Lankester* 365. (Blooming at Las Cóncevas October–November 1922.) In hot forest. Flower vinaceous brown. 150 meters altitude. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 22847.)