

TROPICAL AMERICAN ORCHIDS

Stelis minutiflora A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba parvula. Radices numerosae, fibratae. Caules secundarii perbreves, monophylli. Folium erectum, ellipticum vel ovale, crassissimum. Inflorescentiae plerumque tres, quam folium multo breviores, dense distichiflorae. Flores minutissimi. Sepala lateralia ovalia, dorso carinata. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala multo minora, quadrato-flabellata. Labellum ovato-

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quadratum, apice rotundatum, medio callo bilobato ornatum.

Plant small; caespitose, 4–6 cm. tall. Roots numerous, fibrous, flexuous, glabrous. Secondary stems very short, 1–17 mm. long, monophyllous, concealed by one to three loose imbricating infundibuliform sheaths which waste away in anthesis. Leaves erect (the young leaves much smaller than normal), elliptic to oval, distinctly short-petioled; petiole 2–4 mm. long, channelled; blade (of mature leaves) 21–39 mm. long, 14.5–18 mm. wide, very thick and fleshy in the alcoholized specimens, acute or obtuse at the minutely bilobed apiculate tip, rounded or subcuneate at base, sharply sulcate down the middle of the upper surface, somewhat carinate beneath, especially near the tip. Inflorescences one to four (usually three), much shorter than the leaf, only one of the clusters of racemes flowering at a time, 1.5–2.5 cm. long, very densely distichous-flowered. Floral bracts minute, infundibuliform. Flowers minute. Sepals minutely papillose within, 3-nerved. Lateral sepals oval or suborbicular-ovate, about 1.7 mm. long, abruptly acute, conspicuously carinate without. Dorsal sepal very similar. Petals very minute, quadrate-flabellate, about .8 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, broadly truncate, lightly retuse and somewhat thickened at the apex, 1-nerved. Labellum about .9 mm. long, ovate-quadrate in outline with erect sides, a fleshy bilobed transverse thickening in the middle, broadly rounded or subtruncate at the apex, 3-nerved. Column stout.

Stelis minutiflora is allied to *S. costaricensis* Reichb.f., but lacks the mucronulate petals and acute basally bicallose lip of that species.

COSTA RICA, Cartago, Raventado, C. H. Lankester 522. 5500 feet altitude. Flowers pale greenish yellow. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 28774.)