

ORCHIDACEAE QUAEDAM AMERICANAE

***Stelis perplexa* Ames sp. nov.** Herba caespitosa. Caules secundarii abbreviati. Folium ligulatum, utrinque attenuatum. Pedunculus cum racemo elongatus, multiflorus. Sepala late ovata, similia. Petala subrhomboidea, apice obtuse angulata. Labellum subrhomboideum, callo prope medium disci. Columna usque ad apicem dilatata.

Roots fibrous, whitish, smooth. Secondary stems caespitose, about 2.5 cm. high, about 1.5 mm. thick, when young concealed by tubular sheaths, monophyllous. Leaf ligulate, 5–7.5 cm. long, 6–9 mm. wide, obtusely and unequally bilobed at the tip, tapering gradually toward the base, much exceeded by the raceme. Peduncle solitary, with the raceme up to 14 cm. long, with several short, tubular bracts below the raceme, erect or arcuate. Raceme slender, many-flowered, 8–12 cm. long. Flowers about 4 mm. apart. Floral bracts 1.5 mm. long, surrounding the rachis,

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obliquely infundibuliform, acute, about half as long as the pedicels. Pedicel and ovary 2.5 mm. long. Flowers brownish in dried specimens. Lateral sepals 2 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, broadly ovate, tapering to the obtuse or subacute apex, coherent near the base, 3-nerved, fleshy. Dorsal sepal similar, acute. Petals hardly 1 mm. long, 1 mm. wide at the apex, thickened, narrowly triangular in cross section at the tip, broadly rhomboid from a wide base, obtuse angled at the summit, 3-nerved. Labellum 1 mm. long, about 1 mm. wide, much thickened, subrhomboidal from a wide base, obtuse angled at the tip, with a transversely thickened callus in the middle. Callus dilated at each side, constricted at the center, apical half of the lip in front of the callus strongly concave. Column dilated above, equalling the petals.

Closely allied with *Stelis gracilis* Ames and *S. sarcodantha* Schltr. From *S. gracilis* it is distinct in the broad sepals and stouter peduncles. From *S. sarcodantha* it differs in having less leathery leaves, a more slender inflorescence, shorter secondary stems, and a differently shaped labellum.

GUATEMALA, Department of Alta Verapaz, Banks of Chisaxte River, below Secanquim, *H. Pittier* 308, May 9, 1905. 250 meters altitude. (TYPE in U. S. Nat. Herb. No. 472971.)