

Stelis Skutchii *Ames sp. nov.*

Herba epiphytica. Caules secundarii graciles, monophylli, vaginis tubularibus vestiti. Folium coriaceum, anguste oblongum, utrinque attenuatum. Racemus multiflorus, folium excedens. Bracteae racemi urceolatae. Flores nutantes, purpurei. Sepala lateralía ovato-lanceo-

EXPLANATION OF THE ILLUSTRATION

STELIS SKUTCHII *Ames*. Plant drawn natural size from a specimen of the type. 1, a flower showing the glandular sepals. 2, a labellum much enlarged. 3, a petal much enlarged. 4, a column (anther removed) showing the confluent stigmas beneath the projecting rostellar process. 5, a labellum much enlarged, as seen from the side.

Drawn April 1938 by **BLANCHE AMES**



lata, trinervia, intus plus minusve glandulosa, extus per medium unicarinata, apice breviter apiculata. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-lanceolatum, intus sparse glandulosum, extus per medium obscure unicarinatum, apice breviter apiculatum. Petala flabellata, valde carnosae, supra medium conspicue incrassata. Labellum linguiforme, valde incrassatum, utrinque obscure lobatum. Columna carnosae, petala aequans.

An herbaceous epiphyte 15–20 cm. tall with elongated racemes of dull purplish nodding flowers. Secondary stems 5–10 cm. long, slender, densely caespitose, concealed by several elongated tubular sheaths, monophyllous. Leaves including the slender sulcate base 10–13 cm. long, about 1 cm. wide, coriaceous, narrowly oblong, tapering at base and narrowed toward the apex, bilobulate with an apicule between the lobules. Raceme 11–16 cm. long, slightly exceeding the leaf. Peduncle sheathed at base by a conduplicate, acute sheath which is 12 mm. long and about 4 mm. wide when spread out. Bracts of the raceme about 2 mm. long, 4 mm. apart, or the lowermost ones almost contiguous, obliquely infundibuliform, equalling the pedicels of the nodding flowers. Pedicels about 4 mm. long, smooth. Flowers twenty-five to fifty, vinous-purple when dry. Lateral sepals about 4.5 mm. long, 2 mm. wide below the middle, ovate-lanceolate, apiculate, sparsely glandulose on the inner surface, 3-nerved, on the outer surface distinctly carinate along the mid-nerve. Dorsal sepal 6 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, oblong-lanceolate, apiculate, 3-nerved with the middle nerve lightly if at all carinate. Petals scarcely 1 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, flabellate, much thickened above the middle, 1-nerved. Labellum 1 mm. long, about 0.5 mm. wide, linguiform with an obscure acute lobule on each side near the middle, 3-nerved, quadrate-thickened below the middle, minutely glandulose near the base, lightly concave

on the upper surface, slightly narrowed above the middle, rounded at the apex. Column equalling the petals, similar to the column of *S. Standleyi* Ames.

Stelis Skutchii is closely allied to *S. Standleyi*, differing from it chiefly in the dissimilarly proportioned sepals and lip. It is noteworthy that the dorsal sepal in *S. Skutchii* is strikingly unlike the lateral sepals, being oblong-lanceolate rather than ovate-lanceolate.

In the same locality where the type was found, Dr. Skutch discovered a single plant in a more advanced state of maturity. The flowers of this single specimen are identical with those of *S. Skutchii*, but the vegetative parts show differences. For example, the plant is 30 cm. tall and the leaves are from 1.4–2 cm. wide, borne on secondary stems which attain a length of 11 cm.

S. Skutchii is a member of the alliance to which *S. rubens* Schltr. belongs.

COSTA RICA: Vara Blanca de Sarapiquí, north slope of Central Cordillera. At 1500-1750 meters altitude. On fallen tree. Flowers dull purple. July-September, 1937. *Alexander F. Skutch 3126* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 49253); Flowers tinged with maroon. *Skutch 3235*.