

Stellilabium (Taeniorhachis) erratum Dressler, *sp. nov.* FIG. 1.

TYPE: COSTA RICA. Cartago: Cantón Paraíso, Dist. Orosi, Tapantí, Sendero Oropéndola, en P. N. Tapantí, 1350 m, 2 nov. 1992, epifita, flores moradas, *J. T. Atwood & D. E. Mora 4202* (holotype, USJ).

Rhachis alata, labellum trilobatum, medio inflatum; columna trilobata, lobulis lateralibus setis stellatis praedita, lobulo medio hispido.

Roots flattened, 1.5-2 mm wide; *leaves* 16-37 x 3-4 mm, elliptic-ob lanceolate, acute; *stems* basally terete, then sulcate; *peduncular bracts* 1.8-2.4 x 1.5 mm, acute; *rachis* flattened, 1-1.2 mm wide, up to 16 cm long; *floral bracts* 1-1.2 x 1.3 mm, triangular, acute; *pedicel* and *ovary* 6.5 mm; *flowers* dark wine-purple; *dorsal sepal* 3-3.5 x 2-2.2 mm, ovate,

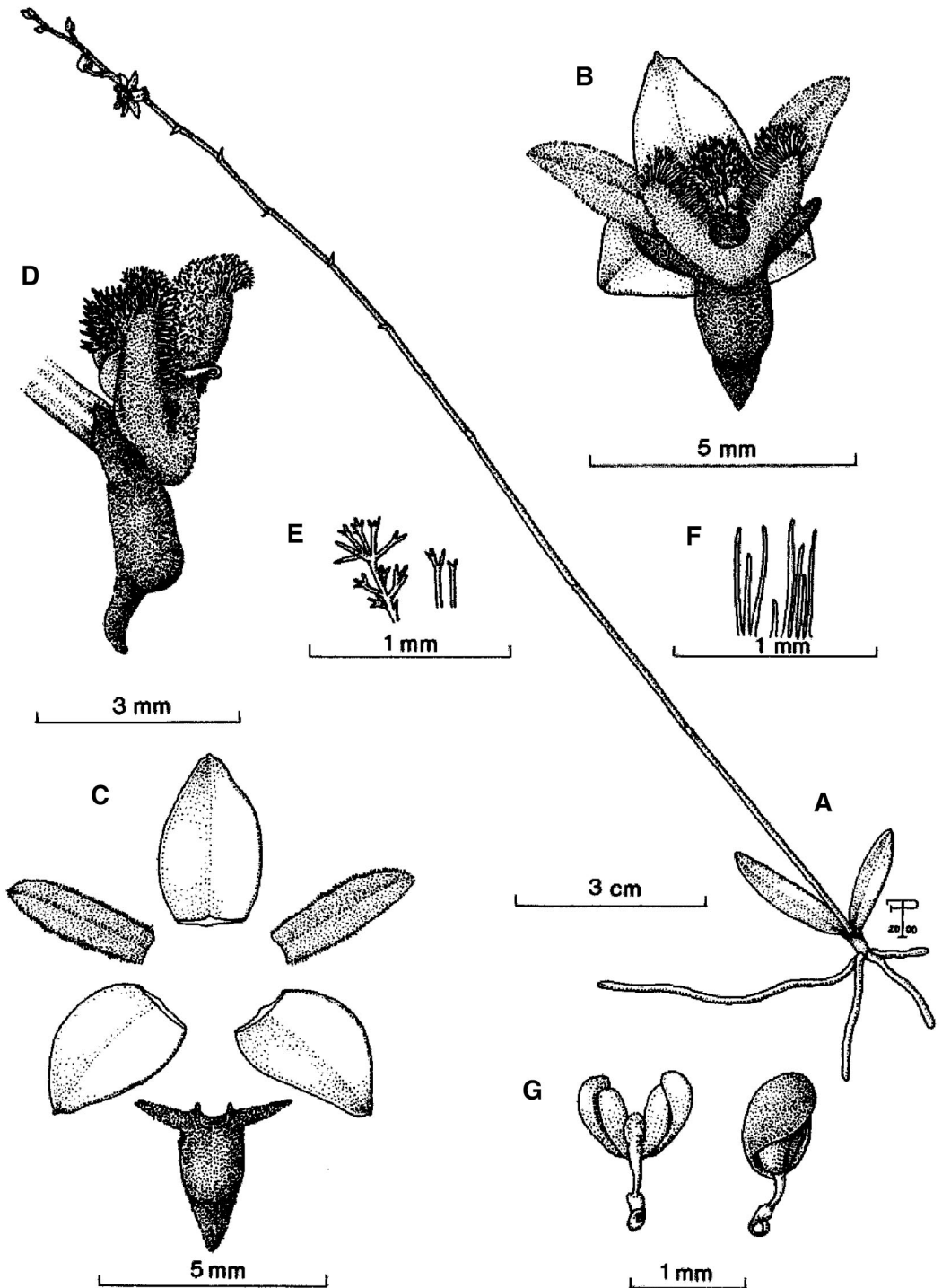


Figure 1. *Stellilabium erratum* Dressler. A - Habit. B - Flower. C - Perianth parts flattened. D - Column and lip, lateral view. E - Bristles of lateral lobes of column. F - Bristles of midlobe of column. G. Pollinarium without and with anther cap. Based on Pupulin et al. 2266.

subacute; *lateral sepals* 3-4 x 1.6-2 mm, obliquely ovate, obtuse, apiculate; *petals* 3.3-3.5 x 0.9-1.1 mm, narrowly elliptic-oblong, subacute, margins ciliate; *lip* 3-3.5 x 3-3.3 mm, 3-lobed, lateral lobes 1.3-2.5 x 0.4-0.5 mm, lanceolate, fleshy, papillose, midlobe 2.5-3 x 1.5-2.5 mm, ovate-triangular, acuminate, thickened in middle, puberulent-papillose; *column* 3-lobed, lateral lobes 1.3-1.5 x 0.4-0.8 mm, oblong, flattened, the dorsal margins with dense band of stellate bristles ca. 0.7 mm long, midlobe rounded, ca. 1.5 mm, bristles simple, ca. 0.4 mm; *capsule* ovoid, ca. 7 x 3 mm, including beak ca. 1.5 mm, fruiting pedicel ca. 3 mm.

Among Central American species of *Stellilabium*, *S. erratum* is distinguished by its large size (for a *Stellilabium*), by the deeply 3-lobed lip and the deeply 3-lobed column. The 3-lobed column would suggest its placement in *Dipterosteles*, according to Garay and Romero (1998), but none of the species described from South America has the flattened, tapeworm-like rachis of the Central American complex. The section *Taeniorhachis* has been proposed for the Central American group (Dressler 1999). The available samples of DNA are very few (one species each of *Dipterosteles* in the strict sense, *Stellilabium* in the strict sense and *Taeniorhachis*), but the analysis does suggest that the three may be distinct groups (N. H. Williams, pers. comm.)

Further and better samples, though, may well show that all three are subgroups of *Telipogon* in the broad sense. The epithet *erratum*, or error, refers to the improbable series of errors that started when we first saw the plant by the Río Pejibaye.

PARATYPES: Same locality as type, 1200 m, 9 apr. 2000, F. Pupulin, L. Spadari y Curso de Orquideología 2266 (USJ). "Taos," altura aprox. 1000 m, 11 dic. 1984, por el borde entre selva y potrero, R. L. Dressler y *Biología* 350 no. 310 (USJ). La Selva. Valle del Río Pejibaye, elev. aprox. 1000 m, 18 marzo 1991, epífita, cerca del río, flores morado-rojo, R. L. Dressler y D. E. Mora de Retana 6136 (USJ).

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CITED LITERATURE

Dressler, R. L. 1993. Field guide to the orchids of Costa Rica and Panama. Ithaca, Cornell University Press.
 Dressler, R. L. 1999. A reconsideration of *Stellilabium* and *Dipterosteles*. Harvard Pap. Bot. 4: 469-473.
 Garay, L. A., & G. A. Romero-González. 1998. *Schedulae Orchidum*. Harvard Pap. Bot. 3: 53-62.