

Stelilabium helleri L.O.Wms., sp. nov.

Planta parva, epiphytica, usque ad 7 cm alta; folia lineari-oblancoolata, acuta, inflorescentia 2-4-flora; sepalum dorsale late ovatum, acutum, cochleatum, sepala lateralia late ovata, acuta, uninervia; petala elliptico-oblonga, obtusa, uninervia; labellum trulliformi-sagittatum, carnosum, acutum, ciliolatum.

Small solitary epiphytic plants to about 7 cm tall; stem slender, bialate, the wings decreasing in width downward; leaves linear-oblancoolate, acute, soon deciduous, those at the base of the stem 15-22 mm long and 2-4 mm broad, those of the stem (usually only one) very much reduced and bract-like; inflores-

cence 2- to 4-flowered, simple, the rhachis distinctly bialate, each wing to 1 mm broad; flowers nearly sessile, flowering in succession upward, subtended by an obtuse bract decurrent into the wings of the rhachis, dark reddish brown, the perianth parts all with a few oblong ocellate crystalline inclusions; dorsal sepals broadly ovate, acute, strongly cochleate and appearing suborbicular in natural position, 1-nerved, 2 mm long and as broad; lateral sepals broadly ovate, acute, 1-nerved, about 2 mm long and 1.7 mm broad; petals elliptic-oblong, obtuse, 1-nerved, the margins antorsely ciliate, the inner surface near the base obscurely pulvinate, about 2.5 mm long and 1.25 mm broad; lip trulliform-sagittate, acute, nerveless, the basal lobes short, subtriangular, fleshy, the base of the lip in front of the column with a sparse fringe of hirsute hairs, the margin retrorsely cilio-

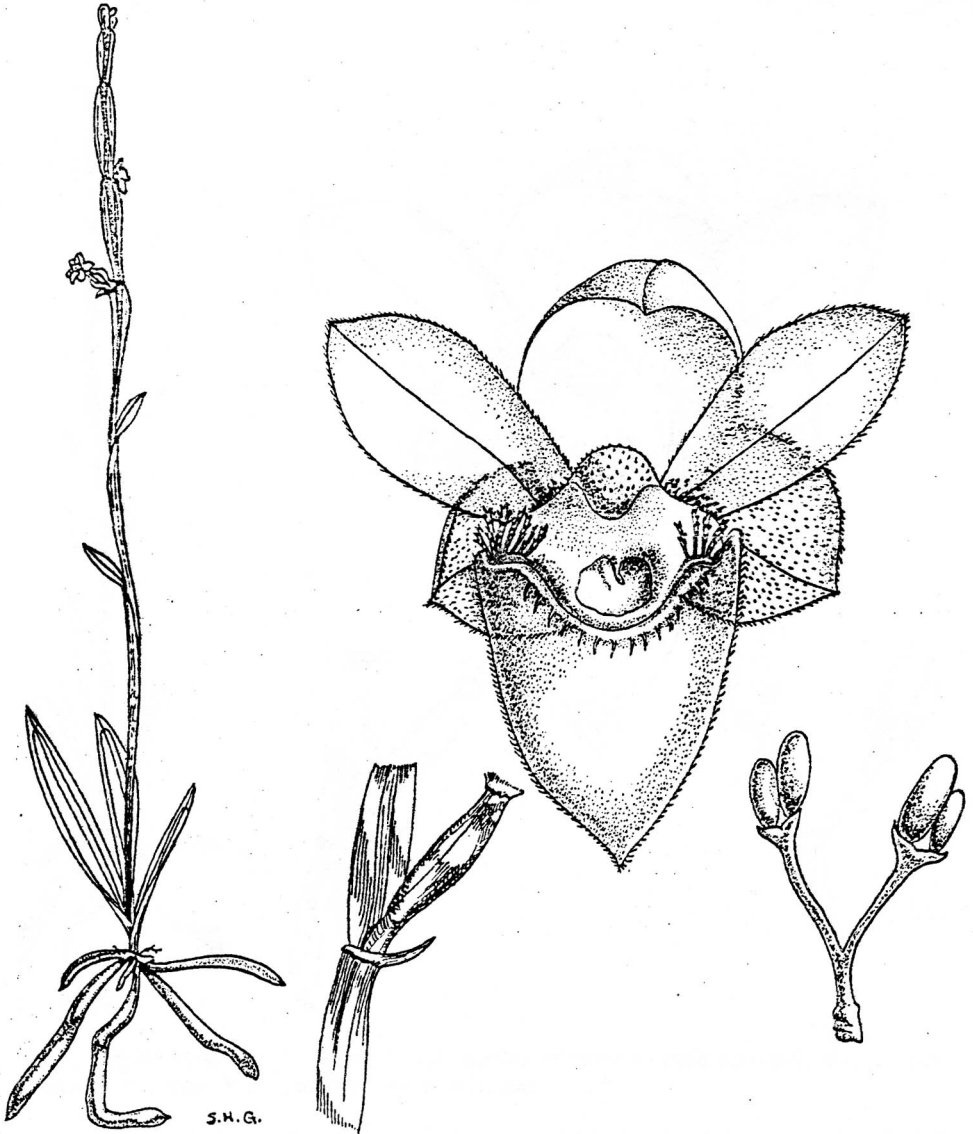


FIG. 1. *Stellilabium helleri*. Habit, $\times 1.2$; section of rhachis, much enlarged; flower from front, natural position, $\times 12$; pollinia, much enlarged.

late, about 2.7 mm long and 2.5 mm broad; column fleshy, the lateral lobes rounded, each with a conspicuous coma of thick hairs, each hair branched toward the apex, the hairs 0.7 mm long or less, the dorsal lobe obscurely muricate above; pollinia 4, 2 large and 2 small, in unequal pairs, on a Y-shaped caudicle.

NICARAGUA: Dept. Matagalpa: On fallen tree 200 meters south of where Santa Cecilia Finca road branches off of Bavaria Finca road, near 14° 29' N, 85° 47' W, alt. 1100 meters, January 1962, *A. H. Heller 4093* (type in Chicago Natural History Museum).

Closely related to *Stellilabium standleyi*¹ which was described from Costa Rica. It is distinguished by several details; the lip is larger, trulliform-sagittate instead of oblong or ovate-oblong, it has no nerves and has a fringe of hairs in front of the column; the petals are elliptic-oblong and obtuse, 1-nerved, whereas those of *S. standleyi* are ovate, acute, 3-nerved; Ames illustrated *S. standleyi* with long hairs on the dorsal lobe of the column, but the present species lacks them.

This northernmost representative of the genus I am pleased to name for its discoverer, who knows more about the orchids in the field in Nicaragua than does anyone else. The description was made from dried material, preserved material and Mr. Heller's careful notes.

¹*Stellilabium standleyi* (Ames) L. Wms., comb. nov. *Telipogon standleyi* Ames, Sched. Orch. 9: 53. fig. 9. 1925.