

CENTRAL AMERICAN ORCHIDS

***Stelis cascajalensis* Ames sp. nov.** Caules secundarii elongati, vaginati, monophylli. Folium coriaceum, oblongo-ellipticum, in sicco nervosum, usque ad basim attenuatum. Vagina pedunculi abbreviata, complanata. Pedunculus elongatus, folio multo longior. Bractee inflorescentiae distichae, inter se distantes. Pedicellus cum ovario bracteam excedens, gracilis. Flores permagni, purpurei. Sepala lateralia deltoideo-ovata, quinquenervia, obtusa. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala valde incrassata, subflabellata, truncata. Labellum carnosum, quadrato-dolabri-forme, apice oblique truncatum, prope apicem minute apiculatum, apiculo erecto. Discus leviter excavatus, per medium leviter carinatus. Columna apice valde dilatata.

Secondary stems erect, 4.5 cm. or more long, for the most part concealed by an elongated tubular sheath, monophyllous. Leaf 10.5 cm. long, 2.7 cm. wide, elliptic-oblongate, obtuse, narrowed toward the base, much shorter than the peduncle. Sheath at base of peduncle in axil of the leaf 1 cm. long, complanate. Peduncle about 17 cm. long, floriferous nearly to the base, the raceme being 14 cm. long. Bracts of the raceme about 8 mm. apart, distichous, 3.5 mm. long, subinfundibuliform, obliquely truncate. Pedicel with the ovary up to 8 mm. long, slender, somewhat drooping. Flowers translucent, purplish, about 12 mm. in diameter when the sepals are spread out. Lateral sepals 5.5 mm. long, 6.5 mm. wide, deltoid-ovate, obtuse, 5-nerved. Dorsal sepal similar. Petals 1.5 mm. long, 2 mm. wide across the tip, fleshy-thickened, subflabellate, truncate. Labellum 1 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, quadrate-dolabriform, obliquely

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truncate in front, with an erect inconspicuous apicule near the apex. Disc shallowly excavated with a raised keel through the middle. Column about 1 mm. long, dilated upward.

In habit similar to *Stelis Lankesteri* Ames, from which it differs in the number of nerves in the sepals, in the regular not bilabiate flowers, and in the petals and labellum. The flowers are larger than in *Stelis leucopogon* Reichb. f. and *S. Tonduziana* Schltr.

COSTA RICA, Cascajal, C. H. Lankester 93. 5500 feet altitude. (TYPE in Herb. Kew.)