



## A new species of *Stelis* (Pleurothallidinae, Orchidaceae) from South Yungas, Bolivia

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### Abstract

A new species of *Stelis* from Bolivia is described and illustrated. *Stelis stephanii* is only known from the type collection.

**Key words:** orchid, *Stelis argentata*, montane forest

### Introduction

With about 900 to 1000 species *Stelis* Swartz (1799: 239, pl. 2, f. 3.) is the largest orchid genus in the *Pleurothallidinae* Lindley (1839) after the dissolution of *Pleurothallis* Brown (1813), with a distribution from southern Mexico to northern Argentina (Luer 2009). *Stelis* is currently subdivided into three sections (Luer 1986, 2009): *Stelis* sect. *Humboldtia* (Ruiz & Pav.) Persoon (1807), *Stelis* sect. *Nexipous* (Garay (1980)) Luer (1986) and *Stelis* sect. *Stelis*. Species of *Stelis* can be distinguished from other *Pleurothallidinae* by the combination of small flowers, petals which are smaller than the sepals, a thick lip which in the front view is often very similar to the petals, and two pollinia. The species are epiphytic or lithophytic and grow in elevations up to 3200 m.

In 2000, 59 species of *Stelis* were known from Bolivia (Vasquez & Ibisch 2000). In 2010 the collection of an undescribed species was made near Chulumani in South Yungas, Bolivia by Stephan Beck. Unfortunately, most specimens were too high in the trees to reach them, so the collection was limited to a single plant.

### Materials and methods

The specimen was compared to herbarium vouchers of all known species from Bolivia and species occurring under similar climatic conditions in Peru, Ecuador and Argentina. The material was observed and drawn with a binocular microscope.

### Taxonomy

*Stelis stephanii* B.Steud., *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2)

*Inter species Stelis sectionis Stelidis, habitu parvo caespitoso, foliis longi-petiolatis, racemo multifloro cum puncis nigris, sepalis ellipticis cum punctis nigris, et labello triangulari.*