

TROPICAL AMERICAN ORCHIDS

Pelexia callosa *Ames sp. nov.* Radices fasciculatae, carnosae, breviter villosae. Caulis valde abbreviatus, vagina scariosa abbreviata ampla laxè appressa obtectus. Folia duo, longe petiolata, petiolis oblique ascendentibus sulcatis utrinque alatis; lamina folii anguste vel late ovata, basi rotundata, apice acuminata, acuta, membranacea, in vivo atroviridis. Scapus erectus, folia aequans vel foliis subbrevior, superne pubescens, paucibracteatus, bracteis arcte appressis acutis. Racemus elongatus, sublaxus, multiflorus. Bracteae inflorescentiae anguste lanceolatae, acutae, margine sparse pubescenti. Flores oblique ascendentes.

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Sepala lateralibus extus glanduloso-pubescentia, mentum elongatum saccatum formantia, basi cohaerentia, lanceolata. Sepalum dorsale erectum cum petalis in galeam elongatam connatum, extus glanduloso-pubescentia. - Petala inaequaliter spathulata, margine anteriore sparse glanduloso-pubescentia infra medium. Labellum elongatum, columnae adhaerens, explanatum subpanduriforme, basi sagittatum, supra medium valde dilatatum, prope apicem valde constrictum, rotundatum, obtusum. Discus glanduloso-pubescentia, callo forcipato ornatus. Columna elongata; rostellum in membranam oblongo-linearem productum.

Roots fasciculate, fleshy, 4-8 cm. long, up to 7 mm. in diameter, villous. Stem abbreviated, entirely concealed by an ample scarious loosely appressed sheath which is about 1.5 cm. long. Leaves two. Petioles 15-16 cm. long, slender, obliquely ascending, sulcate, winged on each side; lamina of the leaf 13-18 cm. long, 6-8 cm. wide, narrowly to broadly ovate, acuminate, acute, dark green above with a distinct mid-nerve. Scape excluding the raceme 20 cm. long, with about six lanceolate closely appressed bracts, pubescent above. Raceme about 12 cm. long, 3-4 cm. in diameter, loosely many-flowered. Rachis glandular-pubescent. Pedicels obliquely ascending, with the ovary about 1 cm. long, subtended by linear-lanceolate ascending bracts. Lateral sepals including the mentum 2.4 cm. long, about 3 mm. wide above the middle, glandular-pubescent on the outer surface, above the base narrowly oblong, upper half lanceolate, acute. Mentum glandular-pubescent, the free portion 4 mm. long, obtuse. Dorsal sepal 1.7-1.8 cm. long, 4.5 mm. wide, somewhat spatulate, obtuse, adherent to the petals and with them forming a slender hood. Petals up to 1.8 cm. long, about 3 mm. wide above the middle, spatulate from a slender base, obtuse, sparsely glandular on the anterior margin below the middle. Labellum adnate to the column, 2.1-2.2 cm. long, 6 mm. wide above the middle, when detached and spread out narrowly panduriform from a sagittate base, dilated above the middle, strongly constricted 3 mm. below the rounded obtuse apical lamina, scurfy on the outer surface, pubescent within below the middle. Auricles

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of the sagittate base extending into the mentum and concealed within it, thickened, dorso-ventrally flattened, 2 mm. long. Disc of the labellum glandular, with a forcipate glandulose thickening at the opening to the throat of the sac. Column about 1.1 cm. long, slender; rostellum linear.

Closely allied to *Pelexia hondurensis* Ames, from which it differs in having larger flowers, much less pronounced glandulosity in the throat of the labellum, and longer auricles at the flat not geniculate base of the labellum.

SPANISH HONDURAS, Dakota (Jilamo Arriba), *Ames II.* 259, March 21, 1923. Terrestrial in dense herbaceous undergrowth in forest. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 27280.)