

***Stenia aurorae*** D.E.Benn. & Christenson, *sp. nov.* TYPE: PERU. Junín: Tarma, between Carapata and Huasahuasi, 2200 m, leg. O. del Castillo, 2 Aug 1994, *Bennett 6640* (Holotype: USM; Isotype: NY). Fig. 33.

Species haec *S. stenoides* (Garay) Dodson & Escobar similis sed callis differentibus et perianthis non galeatis differt.

Caespitose, acaulous epiphytes with fan-shaped growths. **Leaves** 3–4, narrowly oblanceolate, long attenuate to a conduplicate base, obliquely obtuse, 15–22 × 2.0–3.0 cm, midvein sharply keeled, dark green. **Inflorescences** laxly erect scapes to 5 cm long, the floral bract tubular to 0.7 cm long. **Flowers** with the sepals and petals pale green, the labellum pale buff yellow, the lateral lobes with an intense mahogany brown rounded edge, the inner surface of the lobes with pale red-brown spots, the central and transverse calli faintly marked. **Dorsal sepal** elliptic, obtuse, carinate-apiculate, concave, 2.0 × 1.3 cm. **Lateral sepals** obliquely ovate-elliptic, subacute, basally concave, carinate-apiculate, 2.2 × 1.4 cm, adnate to the column foot. **Petals** obovate, oblique, cuneate, obtuse, carinate-apiculate, 1.8 × 1.2 cm, the lower margin repand. **Labellum** 3-lobed, saccate, rigid, transversely 1.2 × 2.3 cm when expanded, the lateral lobes erect, broadly semielliptic, the mid-lobe triangular with involute margins forming a tubular apex, rigidly joined to the foot by a very short, broad claw, the sac internally with 13 low, slightly raised ribs through the basal half, the midrib thicker and terminating abruptly in an erect obliquely cuneiform callus under and between the blunt-toothed calli near the leading

edge of the lateral lobes. **Column** stout, fleshy, 1.2 cm long, dorsally with two lateral furrows, with marginal ridges, base and foot sparsely pubescent, extended into a 6 mm column-foot, the anther transverse, 2.7 × 2.9 mm, the pollinia 4 in 2 unequal pairs, dorsally complanate, the pairs convex-concave, 1.5–1.9 × 1.1 mm, the stipe very short with 2–3 minute, retrorse teeth on each side, the viscidium subrhombic, 1.2 × 0.7 mm. **Ovary** 6-sulcate. **Fruit** not seen.

**HABITAT:** *Stenia aurorae* is native to wet montane forest. In the wild, this species flowers in late July and August.

**ETYMOLOGY:** This species is named in honor of Aurora Pastorelli de Bennett, publisher of *Icenes Orchidacearum Peruvianum* and wife of the senior author.

This species is similar to *S. stenoides* (Garay) Dodson & Escobar. *Stenia aurorae* differs by the presence of an obliquely cuneiform callus positioned just under and between the knobby transverse ridge of calli teeth, a shorter column foot, an acute viscidium, a stipe with 2–3 minute retrorse teeth to each side, laxly erect scapes and a spreading perianth. Color photographs of the type plant of *S. stenoides*, kindly provided by Leslie Garay, show that species has a strongly hooded perianth formed by the dorsal sepal and lateral petals. Dodson (pers. comm.) confirms this characteristic from recent collections near the type locality. Finally, the indentation in front of the lateral labellum lobes in *S. stenoides* is deeper than in *S. aurorae*, and the lateral lobes project outward to a greater degree.