



Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. *Ramicauls* slender, not thickened at the base, erect, 3–12 cm long, with a close, tubular sheath on the lower third and another sheath at the base. *Leaf* erect, coriaceous, ovate or elliptical, acute, 3–6.5 cm long, up to 0.8–2.5 cm wide in the dry state, cuneate below into a subpetiolate base. *Inflorescence* 1–4 erect, densely and simultaneously many-flowered racemes, to 9 cm long including the peduncle 2–3 cm long, subtended by a spathe 5–7 mm long, from an annulus at the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; *sepals* glabrous, fleshy, the dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, concave, 2 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, obtuse, concave synsepal, 2 mm long, 1.75 mm wide; *petals* oblong, obtuse, 2 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 1-veined; *lip* thick, ovate-subquadrate, 1.5 mm long, 1.3 mm wide above the middle, the apex obtuse, acuminate to the tip, the sides above the middle broadly rounded, the disc with a small, indistinct callus near the margin below the apex, the base truncate, connected to the base of the column; *column* stout, scriterete, 1.5 mm long, the foot thick, 0.5 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology: Named for the San Francisco Science Center in the province of Zamora-Chinchipe, Ecuador.

Paratype: ECUADOR. Zamora-Chinchipe: area of Estación Científica San Francisco, alt. 1880 m, 13 June 2005, *F.A. Werner 1569* (LOJA, SEL), C. Luer illustr. 31636.

This species is known from two collections from the area around the San Francisco Scientific Station in southeastern Ecuador. The tiny, fleshy flowers are superficially similar to those of *Crocodelanthe pachypus* (F.Lehm. & Kraenzl.) Luer, but vegetatively it differs by having subpetiolate instead of distinctly petiolate leaves, and ramicauls without thickening at the bases. The lateral sepals are completely connate into a synsepal similar to the dorsal sepal, and the petals are oblong and single-veined. The apex of the lip of *C. pachypus* is variably truncate or retuse, but in none is the apex broad with an acuminate tip. The pair of marginal calli seen in *C. pachypus* is reduced to indistinct, marginal thickenings.

Crocodelanthe franciscensis Luer, Thoele & F.Werner, *sp. nov.* TYPE: ECUADOR, Zamora-Chinchipe: area of Estación Científica San Francisco, alt. 2100 m, 8 September 2005, *F.A. Werner 1810* (Holotype: LOJA, Isotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 21636. Fig. 12.

Species haec Crocodelanthe pachypodis (F.Lehm. & Kraenzl.) Luer *affinis*, *sed foliis subpetiolatis, sepalis lateralibus omnino connatis et labello obovato obtuso acuminato differt.*