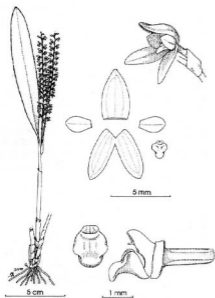


Crocodeilanthe speciosa Luer, Thorerle & F.Werner, *sp. nov.* TYPE: ECUADOR, Zamora-Chinchipec: area of Estación Científica San Francisco, alt. 2300 m, 22 Apr. 2007, *FA*.



Werner, G. Mendieta, K. Diertl & A. Simon 2206 (Holotype: LOJA, Isotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 21644. Fig. 15.

Planta grandis dense caespitosa, racemis multifloris folio anguste elliptico brevioribus, sepalis subacutis liberis leviter striatis, petalis late obovatis uninervis, labello crassissimo subtrilobo ad apicem rotundo, marginibus infra medium rotundis erectis cum calli marginalibus distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots coarse. *Ramicauls* stout, erect, 8–9 cm long, with a tubular sheath from below the middle and 2–3 imbricating sheaths below the middle. *Leaf* erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, subacute, 12–13 cm long including a petiole ca. 1.5 cm long, 1.5–1.8 cm wide in the dry state, contracted below into the petiole. *Inflorescence* 2 erect, densely and simultaneously many-flowered racemes, 8–11 cm long including the peduncle ca. 2 cm long, subtended by a spathe 1–1.2 cm long, from an annulus below the abscission layer; floral bracts 3.5 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; *sepals* translucent light green with thin, purple veins, glabrous, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, concave, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals free except at the base, oblong, obtuse, carinate, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; *petals* membranous, with margins and midvein purple, obovate, obtuse, 2 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined; *lip* thick, broadly elliptical-subbilobed, 1.4 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, the apical lobe transversely rounded, decurved, the sides below the apical third erect, broadly rounded, each with an intramural, semilunate callus, the disc broadly concave between the calli, the base concave below a transverse callus, articulating with the tip of the column-foot; *column* stout, terete, 1.5 mm long, the foot thick, 1 mm long, the anther and stigma subapical.

Etymology: From the Latin *speciosus*, “elegant, handsome,” referring to a quality of a flowering plant.

This species is known from only the original collection in southeastern Ecuador. The comparatively slender ramicauls are produced in a thick fascicle. The two racemes produced by the present specimen bear numerous small flowers simultaneously. The flowers are light green with faint purple striations along the veins and margins of the sepals and single-veined petals. An intramural, semilunate callus

is present within erect, rounded sides of the minute lip.