

Crocodeilanthe suinii Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 6.

Ety.: Named for Linder Suin of Gima, Ecuador, who collected and cultivated this species.

Species haec *Crocodeilanthis salpinganthae* (Luer & Hirtz) Luer affinis, sed sepalis profundissime connatis ad apicem valde incrassatis, et labello suborbiculare cum calli supra medium indistinctis differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls fasciculate, stout, erect, 8-12 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath on the middle third and 2-3 loose, imbricating sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 7-8 cm long, 2-2.3 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 1-1.5 cm long. **Inflorescence** an erect, congested, many-flowered raceme, more or less secund, most flowers open simultaneously, 5-9 cm long including the peduncle 3-4 cm long, within an oblique spathe 2-3 cm long, from an annulus ca. 2 mm below the abscission layer; floral bracts tubular, inflated, 6 mm long, enclosing the pedicel, ovary and lower half of the flower; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, microscopically pubescent above the middle, the dorsal sepal oblong, longitudinally concave, the apical quarter thick and obtuse, 8 mm long, 3 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 6 mm to form a cylindrical sepaline tube that is constricted below the apical thickenings, the lateral sepals oblong, connate 5 mm, with the apices similarly thickened, 6.5 mm long, 3 mm wide together, 6-veined together; **petals** translucent yellow, broadly elliptical, rounded at the apex, 3 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, fleshy, suborbicular, 3 mm long, 3 mm wide expanded, the apex broadly rounded, the disc shallowly concave, with an obscure pair of low, oblique, lunate calli slightly above the middle, and with a transverse callus above the narrowly concave base, the base truncate, firmly hinged to the column-foot; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the foot thick, less than 1 mm long with the apex short and thick, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

ECUADOR: **Azuay**: near Gima, alt. ca. 3000 m, collected and cultivated in Gima by Linder Suin, flowered in cultivation 6 Mar. 2001, *C. Luer 19769* (Holotype: MO).

This species of high altitudes of southern Ecuador is related to the relatively frequent and widely distributed *Crocodeilanthe salpingantha* (Luer & Hirtz) Luer. Both species are characterized by a long, foliaceous spathe, and large floral bracts that enclose a deeply connate, yellow, perianth tube. *Crocodeilanthe suinii* differs by the petiolate instead of sessile leaves, and sepals deeply connate into a tube that is constricted below thickened apices.

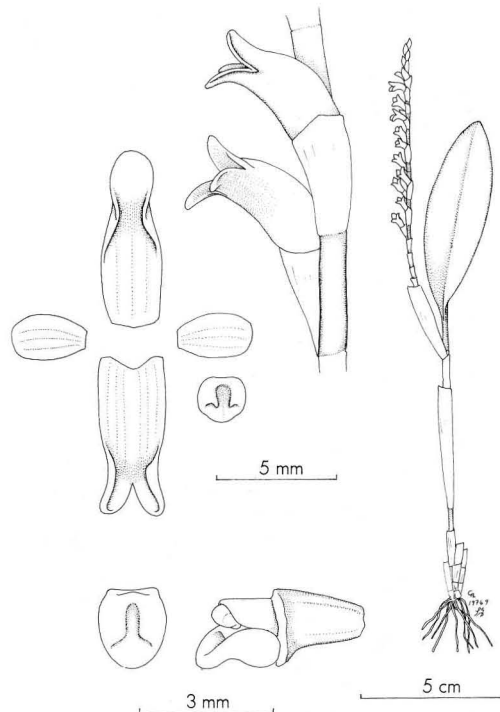


Fig. 6. *Crocodelanthe suinii*