

Crocodelanthe wernerii Luer & Thorerle, *sp. nov.* TYPE: ECUADOR. Zamora-Chinchipe: area of Estación Científica San Francisco, alt. 3000 m, 14 May 2007, F.A. Werner 2269 (Holotype: LOJA, Isotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 21635. Fig. 16.

Planta grandis robusta prolificans, racemo multifloro folio elliptico longiore, sepalo dorsali rotundo concavo, sepalis lateralibus infra medium acute deflexis, petalis grandis membranaceis suboblongis, labello oblongo crassissimo ad medium bicalloso ad basim bilobis distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, robust, prolific; roots slender at points of proliferation. *Ramicauls* stout, erect, to 20 cm long below, 6–15 cm long above, with 2–3 tubular sheaths below the middle. *Leaf* erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, 5–8 cm long, 1 cm wide dry, cuneate below to the base. *Inflorescence* an erect, densely and simultaneously many-flowered raceme to 18 cm long including the peduncle ca. 5 cm long, subtended by a spathe 2.5–3 cm long, from the annulus at the abscission layer; floral bracts 5 mm long; pedicels erect, 4 mm long; ovary erect, 3 mm long; *sepals* dull green, marked with purple along the veins, the dorsal sepal glabrous, subcircular, concave, 10 mm long, 9 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals suboblong, obtuse, minutely apiculate, acutely reflexed in the lower third, 8 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, connate ca. 2 mm below the deflexion; *petals* membranous, oblong, oblique, rounded at the apex, 9 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined; *lip* rigidly thick, oblong, 4.5 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, the apex shallowly bilobed, the sides suberect, broadly rounded, the disc with a central pair of erect lamellate calli, the base deeply bilobed, solidly connate to the base of the column; *column* stout, 2 mm long, the foot thick, 1 mm long, the anther and stigma subapical.

Etymology: Named for the collector, Dr. Florian Werner of the University of Oldenburg, Germany, coordinator of “Dynamics of epiphyte diversity in disturbed and undisturbed tropical montane forest” at the San Francisco Science Center in the province of Zamora-Chinchipe, Ecuador.

This large, prolific species is known from only the original collection near the

San Francisco Scientific Station in southern Ecuador. Except for being considerably larger, the flowers are basically similar to those of the densely caespitose *Crocodeilanthe weddelliana* (Rchb.f.) Luer. The dorsal sepal is round and concave; the lateral sepals are acutely reflexed below the middle; and the rigid, oblong lip is solidly connate to the base of the column.

