

4. *PLEUROTHALLIS CUATRECASASII* Luer, sp. nov.

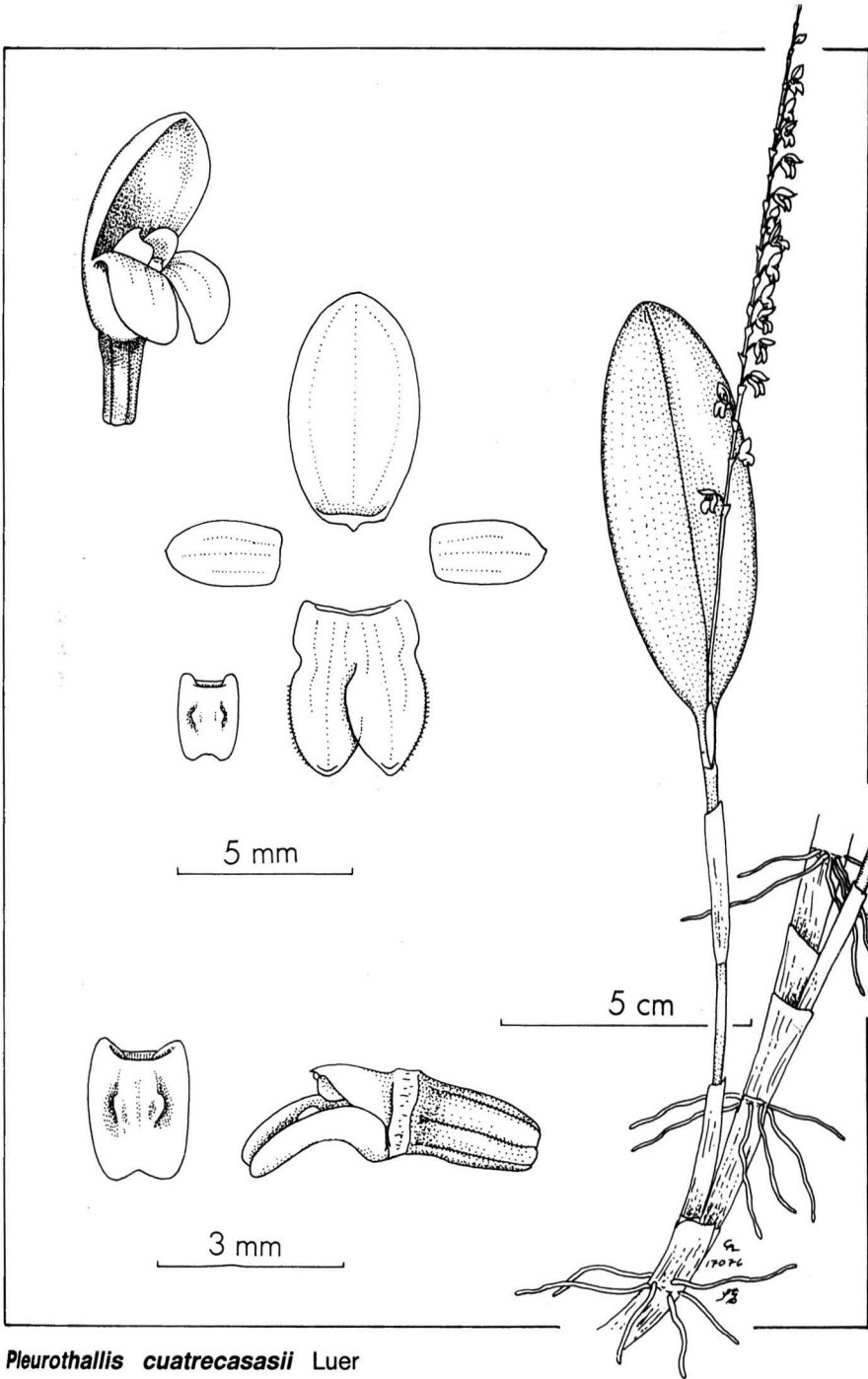
Inter species subgeneris *Crocodelanthe* rhizomate crasso repenti, racemo gracili multifloro folio elliptico petiolato multilongiore, praeter florum amplitudinem parvam floribus illi *P. cassidis* Lindl. similibus distinguitur.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Cauca: Cabeceras del Río Palo, Quebrada de Santo Domingo, alt. 2950-3150 m, 13 Dec. 1944, *J. Cuatrecasas* 19264 (Holotype: NY), C. Luer illustr. 17076.

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada en honor del Dr. José Cuatrecasas, distinguido botánico español quien recolectó esta especie.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Dr. José Cuatrecasas, distinguished botanist from Spain, who collected this species.

Plant large, coarse, epiphytic, repent; rhizome thick, enclosed by fragmenting, tubular sheaths, creeping, 3-5 cm long between ramicauls; roots slender, from nodes along the rhizome. Ramicauls ascending to erect, stout to slender, 8-16 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath near the middle and 2-3 loose, imbricating sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, the blade 8-10 cm long including a petiole 1 cm long, 2.5-3 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a single, secund, simultaneously many-flowered raceme up to 18 cm long including the peduncle 5-6 long,



Pleurothallis cuatrecasatii Luer

subtended by a slender spathe 1-1.2 cm long, from an annulus 3 mm below the abscission layer; floral bracts infundibular, 4 mm long, enclosing pedicel; pedicels 3 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; **sepals** yellowish, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal elliptical, obtuse, concave, 7 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 2 mm, the lateral sepals minutely ciliate, parallel, acutely deflexed below the middle, oblong, obtuse, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to near the middle; **petals** translucent, oblong-elliptical, concave, obtuse, 3 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow to purple, oblong, 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex broadly truncate, retuse, the disc shallowly concave and smooth between a pair of low, rounded calli near the middle, the base with a transverse callus creating a cavity on the end, fixed to the column-foot; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, the foot thick, nearly 1 mm long, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

Esta especie es aparentemente endémica en la Cordillera Central al sur de Colombia en donde fue recolectada por J. Cuatrecasas. En hábito el largo rizoma repente de esta especie se parece al de *P. scansor* Luer del adyacente norte del Ecuador, pero las flores difieren notablemente. Las flores de *P. cuatrecasasii*, aún cuando solamente aparecen en racimos solitarios, son más parecidas a las de *P. cassidis*. El sépalo dorsal se presenta connato a los sépalos laterales en un tercio de su longitud, y estos son agudamente deflexos justamente después de la unión. Los pétalos son oblongos, cóncavos, obtusos y con tres venas. El labelo es subcuadrado u oblongo con un ápice ampliamente retuso y un par de callos pequeños cerca del centro. El labelo recuerda más al de *P. laevigata* Lindl.

This species is apparently endemic in the Central Cordillera of southern Colombia where it was collected by J. Cuatrecasas. In habit, the long-repent rhizome of this species resembles that of *P. scansor* Luer from adjacent northern Ecuador, but the flowers differ markedly. Although produced only in a solitary raceme, the flowers of *P. cuatrecasasii* are most similar to those of *P. cassidis*. The dorsal sepal is connate to the lateral sepals about a third of the length, and the lateral sepals are acutely deflexed just beyond the connation. The petals are oblong, concave, obtuse and three-veined. The lip is subquadrate or oblong with a broadly retuse apex and a low pair of calli near the middle. The lip is more reminiscent of the lip of *P. laevigata* Lindl.