

## **Pleurothallis croatii** Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 13.

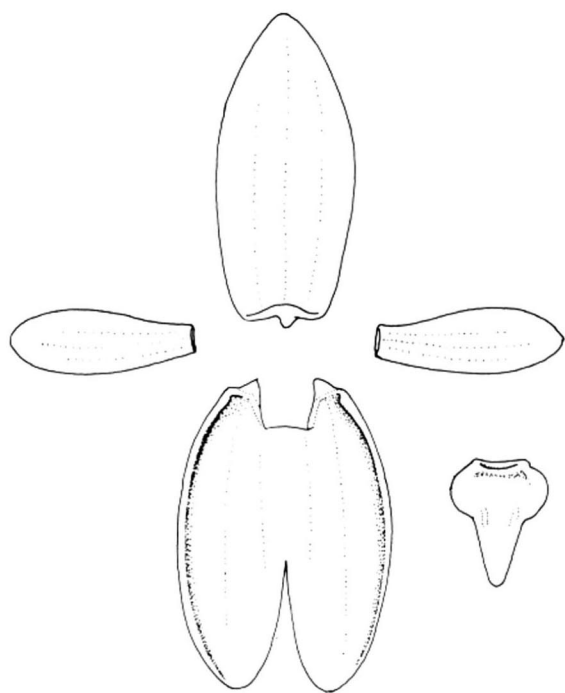
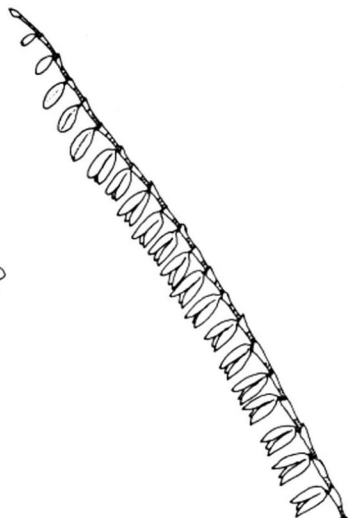
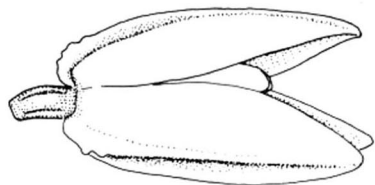
Ety.: Named in honor of Dr. Thomas B. Croat who first discovered this species.

Planta grandis dense caespitosa, foliis ellipticis acutis supra basin decurrentibus, racemo disticho vel secundo dense multifloro folio longiore, spatha parva, sepalis obtusis concavis carinatis infra medium connatis, petalis obtusis trinervis, labello ovoideo subtrilobo apice crasso anguste obtuso disco ad medium bicalloso.

**Plant** medium to large in size, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots numerous, slender. Ramicauls fasciculate, erect, laterally compressed, 12-30 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath near the middle and 2-3 other tubular sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 6-9 cm long, 3-3.5 cm wide, the base cuneate, decurrent 1-1.2 cm onto the ramicaul. **Inflorescence** racemose, 1 to several racemes produced simultaneously, dense, secund to distichous, simultaneously many-flowered, 12-20 cm long including the peduncle 3-5 cm long, sometimes cleistogamous, subtended by a slender spathe ca. 1 cm long, from the apex of the ramicaul embedded 1 cm into the leaf; floral bracts infundibular, 4-5 mm long, enclosing pedicel; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** yellow, elliptical, concave, obtuse, with the margins microscopically cellular-glandular, tall-carinate toward the base, the dorsal sepal 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 2-3 mm, the lateral sepals 6.5 mm long, connate 3 mm, 4.5 mm wide together; **petals** translucent yellow, obovate, obtuse, 4.25 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, ovate-trilobed, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide expanded, the apical lobe triangular, thick at the narrowly obtuse apex, the lateral lobes below the middle, erect, broadly rounded, the disc concave between the semilunate calli near the middle, with a narrow, transverse callus above the shallowly concave base, articulated to the tip of the column-foot; **column** stout, 2 mm long, the foot thick, 0.5 mm long, the anther subapical, and the rostellum and stigma ventral.

PANAMA: **Chiriquí:** Cerro Pate Macho, along the continental divide, northeast of Boquete, alt. ca. 2200 m, 23 Nov. 1979, *T. B. Croat* 48506 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17022. **Bocas del Torro:** along the continental divide, northeast of Cerro Pate Macho, alt. 2100-2200 m, 12 Nov. 1981, *S. Knapp*, *A. Herre* & *L. Coley* 2156 (MO).

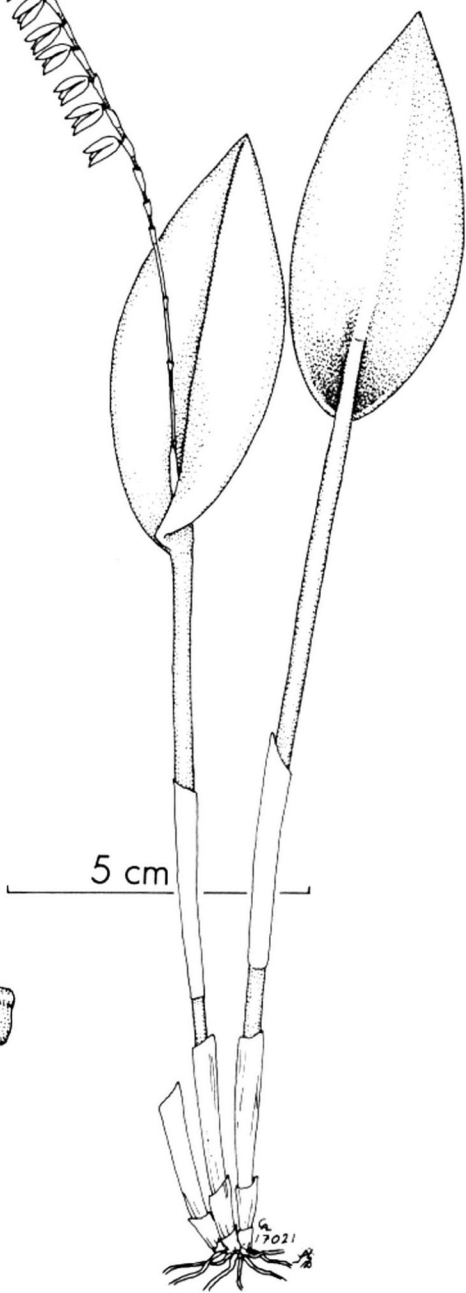
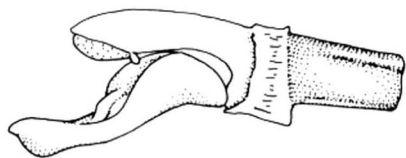
This species, apparently endemic in western Panama, is unique in the subgenus with the bases of the leaves decurrent on a stout, laterally compressed ramicauls that are fasciculate with common, loose, tubular sheaths. The elongate racemes are subtended by a small spathe. In one of the two collections seen, all ovaries are swollen. The sepals are remarkable with tall, more or less irregular carinae along the midvein below the middle. The petals are obtuse and three-veined. The triangular-trilobed lip with the lateral lobes erect and broadly rounded below the middle, and a small pair of calli, is similar to that of *P. moritzii*. The column is terete, a little longer than usual in the subgenus.



5 mm



3 mm



5 cm

17021