

Pleurothallis galerasensis Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 26.

Ety.: Named for Volcán Galeras where the species was collected.

Inter species subgeneris *Crocodelanthidis* ramicaulibus prolificantibus, racemis paucis multifloris folio elliptico petiolato multilongioribus, spatha magna, sepalis semiconnatis acutis intus pubescentibus, petalis trinervis, et labello oblongo infra medium bicalloso distinguitur.

Plant large, coarse, terrestrial, scandent, ascending-creeping below, roots slender. Ramicauls approximate below, proliferating above, stout to slender, erect to suberect, 5-25 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath near the middle and 2-3 imbricating sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, the blade 6-9 cm long, 1.2-2.7 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole ca. 1 cm long. **Inflorescence** racemose, 1-3 slender, simultaneous, secund, densely and simultaneously many-flowered racemes, 10-22 cm long including the peduncle 3-6 cm long, subtended by a foliaceous spathe 1-3 cm long, from an annulus 5 mm below the abscission layer; floral bracts tubular, 4 mm long, enclosing pedicel; pedicels 2-3 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** light green, suffused with purple, fleshy, subcarinate, pubescent within, the dorsal sepal elliptical-ovate, acute, concave, 7 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5-2 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 5.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 2 mm to near the middle; **petals** translucent greenish white, edged in purple, elliptical, obtuse, 3 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** purple, fleshy, oblong, 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex subtruncate, the disc smooth, shallowly concave between a pair of small, rounded calli below the middle, the base concave below a transverse callus, firmly articulated with the bulbous tip of the column-foot; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, the foot thick, with the apex short, free, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral.

COLOMBIA: **Nariño**: epiphytic in cloud forest surrounding a lake in the crater of Volcán Galeras, alt. ca. 3200 m, 21 Jan. 1979, C. Luer & J. Luer 3749 (Holotype: SEL).

This species is apparently endemic in southern Colombia where it is known only from the original collection. In the subgenus, it is distinguished by the prolific habit of the ramicauls. Below, the ramicauls are ascending and approximate; above, they proliferate from within the spathe of the uppermost ramicaul. One to three slender, secund racemes far surpass the elliptical, petiolate leaves. The racemes and another ramicaul are subtended by a foliaceous spathe. The sepals are connate below the middle, pubescent within, the dorsal sepal concave and acute, the lateral sepals recurving and also acute. The petals are three-veined. The lip is oblong with a pair of low calli below the middle.

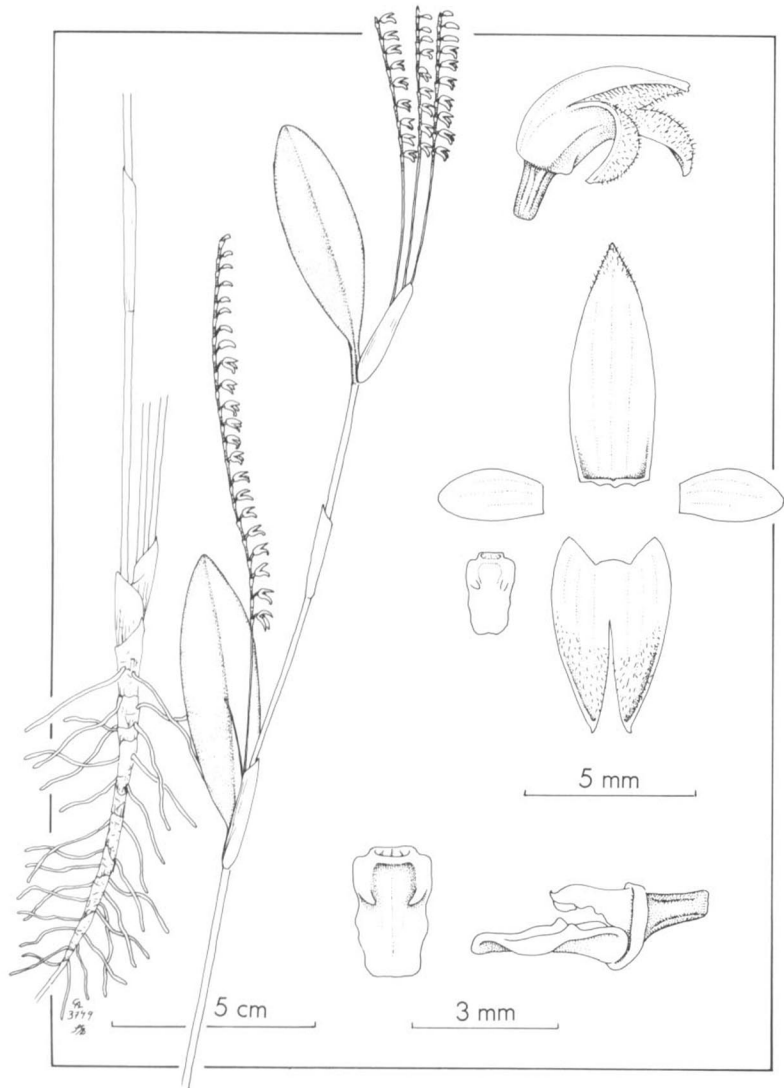


Fig. 25. *Pleurothallis galerasensis*