



**PLEUROTHALLIS GIGAS**  
Luer & R. Escobar.

10. **PLEUROTHALLIS GIGAS** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Inter species subgeneris *Crocodelanthæ*, species hæc habitu grandissimo, racemis multis erectis multifloris folio brevipetiolato brevioribus, spatha

magna, floribus parvis, labelli lamina ligulata, labelli basi profunde concava distinguitur.

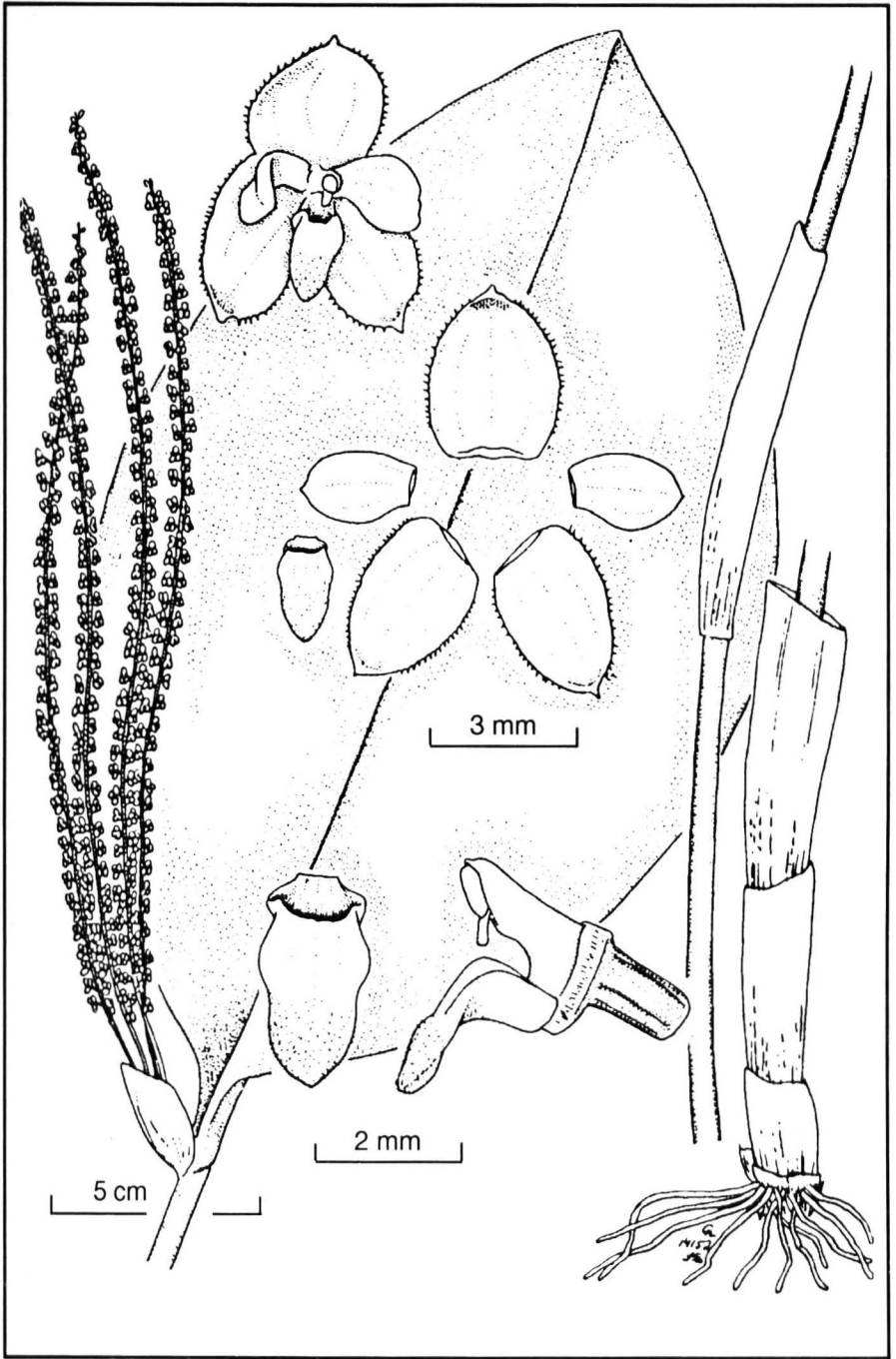
**TYPE:** Colombia: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Yarumal, terrestrial on the road-cut between Ventanas and El Cedro, alt. 1920 m, 15 Mar. 1989, *C. Luer, J. Luer, S. Dalström & W. Teague 14152* (Holotype: MO); terrestrial on the road-cut along Río El Oro north of Yarumal, alt. 1700 m, 1 May 1984, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 10067* (MO); Munic of El Carmen, above San Lorenzo, alt. 2500 m, 21 Mar. 1989, *C. Luer, J. Luer & W. Teague 14341* (MO).

**ETIMOLOGIA:** Del griego gigas, "un gigante", en referencia al hábito grande de la planta.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek *gigas*, "a giant," referring to the large habit of the plant.

**Plant** very large, terrestrial, densely caespitose; roots numerous, coarse. Ramicauls stout, fasciculate, erect, 40-90 cm long, with a tubular sheath near the middle and 2-5 large, loose, imbricating sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical-ovate, acute, 18-33 cm long, 12-16 cm wide, cuneate below into a conduplicate petiole 1-2 cm long. **Inflorescence** racemose, 5-10 racemes, 15-30 cm long, erect, congested, many-flowered, produced simultaneously in a fascicle, from a foliaceous spathe 3-4 cm long, with an annulus at the apex of the ramicaul, less than 1 cm below the abscission layer; floral bracts 2-2.5 mm long; pedicels 1.5-2 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** greenish or creamy white, ciliate, ovate, obtuse, minutely apiculate, the dorsal sepal concave, 3.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide unexpanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals essentially free, 3.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** translucent, glabrous, obovate, obtuse, 2.25 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow-green, thick, oblong, 2 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the blade obtuse, microscopically pubescent, the disc featureless, the base broadly and deeply concave to accommodate the column-foot; **column** stout, terete, 1.75 mm long, the foot bulbous, cellular-pubescent, the anther and stigma subapical.

Este gigantesco miembro del subgénero *Crocodelanthe* es localmente abundante en sitios del norte de la Cordillera Central de Colombia. Crece llegando a formar inmensas masas en los taludes y en las cunetas de las carreteras. No se observaron plantas creciendo en forma epífita. Se distingue por el gran tamaño de los ramicales y de las hojas, alcanzando a tener más de un metro de altura. Numerosos racimos erectos con pequeñas flores apiñadas de color blanco-verdusco se producen desde una espata grande. Los sépalos son obtusos y ciliados, los pétalos obovados y obtusos, y la lámina del labelo oblonga y microscópicamente pubescente. En una localidad eran atraídas en gran cantidad unas pequeñas moscas negras.



**PLEUROTHALLIS GIGAS** Luer & R. Escobar.

This gigantic member of the subgenus *Crocodielanthe* is locally abundant in the northern parts of the Central Cordillera of Colombia. It grows into immense masses on road-cuts and in the ditches. No plants were seen growing epiphytically. It is distinguished by the great size of the ramicauls and leaves, reaching well over one meter in height. Numerous, erect racemes of crowded, little, greenish white flowers are produced from a large spathe. The sepals are obtuse and ciliate, the petals are obovate and obtuse, and the blade of the lip is oblong and microscopically pubescent. In one locality, little, black flies were being attracted in fairly large numbers.