

**Pleurothallis molleturoi** Luer & Dodson, sp. nov.

Fig. 40.

Ety.: Named for the community of Molleturo in southwestern Ecuador where the species was discovered.

Inter species subgeneris *Crocodeilanthe* foliis ellipticis ramicaulibus gracilibus terlongioribus cum racemibus paucis multifloribus subaequalibus, floribus carnosiss nonresupinatis, sepalis acutis, petalis obtusis et labello ovato anguste obtuso disco obscure bicalloso distinguitur.

**Plant** large, coarse, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls fasciculate, slender, erect, 20-23 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath near the middle and 2-3 loose, imbricating sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 11-12 cm long including a petiole 2-2.5 cm long, 2.5-3.5 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** 1-2 congested, simultaneously many-flowered racemes, more or less distichous, 10-12 cm long including the peduncle 2-3 cm long, subtended by a slender spathe 2 cm long, from an annulus 5-6 mm below the abscission layer; floral bracts oblique, 3-4 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; flowers non-resupinate; **sepals** yellow, fleshy, thickly carinate, narrowly obtuse, concave, with the edges narrowly incurved, the middle sepal 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals, oblique, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** translucent, elliptical, obtuse, 3 mm

long, 1.6 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, ovate, 2.8 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex narrowly obtuse, the sides broadly rounded below the middle and erect, the disc shallowly concave and smooth between a minute pair of obsolescent, lunate calli within the margins below the middle, and with a narrow, transverse callus above the base, narrowly concave below, the base truncate, inflexibly attached to the column-foot; **column** stout, 2 mm long, the foot thick, 1 mm long, anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

ECUADOR: **Azuay**: between Cuenca and Molleturo, alt. ca. 2800 m, 21 July 1985, *C. H. Dodson, P. M. Dodson, T. Dodson & A. Embree 15941* (Holotype: MO).

This large species, apparently endemic in southwestern Ecuador, is characterized by comparatively slender ramicauls and a few multiflowered racemes shorter than the long-petiolate, elliptical leaf. The small, non-resupinate flowers are fleshy and thickly carinate. The petals are comparatively large, obtuse, and three-veined. The lip is ovate with the usual pair of calli barely visible within the margin just below the middle.

