

***Pleurothallis virgata* Luer, sp. nov.**

Fig. 69.

Ety.: From the Latin *virgatus*, "twiggy," referring to the branching habit.

Inter species subgeneris *Crocodelanthidis* ramicaulibus superpositis, racemis paucis parvifloris folio elliptico plus minusve aequilongis, sepalis carnosis subacutis, labello parvo trilobato, lobis crassicallosis distinguitur.

Plant large, coarse, terrestrial, densely caespitose; roots coarse, numerous. Ramicauls fasciculate, superposed, stout to slender, erect, 10-32 cm long below to 3-10 cm long above, with a long, tubular sheath near the middle and several, imbricating sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-oblong, subacute to obtuse, the blade up to 14 cm long and 3 cm wide below to 4 cm long and 1.5 cm wide above, cuneate below into a petiole ca. 1 cm long. **Inflorescence** racemose, 1-3 slender, simultaneous, more or less secund, densely and simultaneously many-flowered racemes, 7-15 cm long including the peduncle 1-2 cm long, subtended by a spathe 8-12 mm long, from an annulus 8-9 mm below the abscission layer; floral bracts infundibular, imbricating, 3-4 mm long, enclosing pedicel; pedicels 2-3 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** yellow-green, fleshy, subcarinate, minutely ciliate, pubescent within, the dorsal sepal elliptical-ovate, subacute to obtuse, concave, 4.5-6 mm long, 2-3.25 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals at the base, the lateral sepals oblong-ovate, subacute to obtuse, 4.25-6 mm long, 3-4 mm wide together, 3-veined, connate 2-2.5 mm to near the middle; **petals** translucent, elliptical-obovate, obtuse, lightly concave, 2-3 mm long, 1.2-1.75 mm wide, 1-veined (sometimes with 2 faint, accessory veins); **lip** yellow-green, fleshy, ovate-trilobed, 1.75-2 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apical lobe thickened, rounded, the lateral lobes erect, rounded, with a thick, prominent intramural callus on the anterior margin, the disc shallowly concave above a transverse callus, the base deeply concave below the transverse callus, articulated with the bulbous tip of the column-foot; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the foot thick, with the apex short, thick, with the apex free, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral.

PERU: **Cajamarca**: Chota, between Huámbos and Cochabamba, alt. 2240 m, 16 Apr. 1988, *C. Díaz & S. Baldeón 2794* (Holotype: MO; Isotype: NY), C. Luer illustr. 17075; terrestrial between Cajamarca and Pacasmayo, below Paso Gavilán, alt. 2900 m, 27 Jan. 1985, *J. Sánchez V. 3664A* (CPUN, F); between Cajamarca and Celendín, alt. 2950-3500 m, 18 Oct. 1986, *C. Díaz S. 2162* (F, MO); Cutervo, Laguña, road to Cochabamba, alt. 1800 m, 26 Feb. 1985, *S. Llatas Q. 1180* (F); San Miguel, Cerro Lanchez, Niepos, alt. 2400 m, 18 Feb. 1992, *S. Llatas Q. 3089* (F, MO), C. Luer illustr. 18541. **Huancabamba**: above Huancabamba, road to Piura, alt. 2750 m, 10 Oct. 1957, *P. C. Hutchison 1599* (AMES, F, NY, UC). **Huánuco**: terrestrial near Huánuco, 31 Aug. 1985, *D. Bennett & A. Bennett 3520* (MO). **La Libertad**: Sánchez Carrión, in dry scrub, NW of Huámachuco, alt. 3200-3500 m, 8 Jan. 1983, *U. Molau, M. Dillon & P. Matekaitis 432* (GB, S), C. Luer illustr. 17104.

This robust, terrestrial species is apparently endemic in central Peru where it is apparently frequent. It was identified by Schweinfurth as *P. velaticaulis*. In the subgenus it is distinguished by the prolific habit of the ramicauls. The lower ramicauls are stout, fasciculate, and elongate before they produce one to three more but shorter ramicauls at the apex that are also prolific. Dense, branching, shrublike plants are produced, much like *Myoxanthus frutex* (Schltr.) Luer. Numerous, congested racemes are about as long as the leaf. The flowers are small with fleshy sepals and a proportionately small, trilobed lip with large, rounded intramural calli.

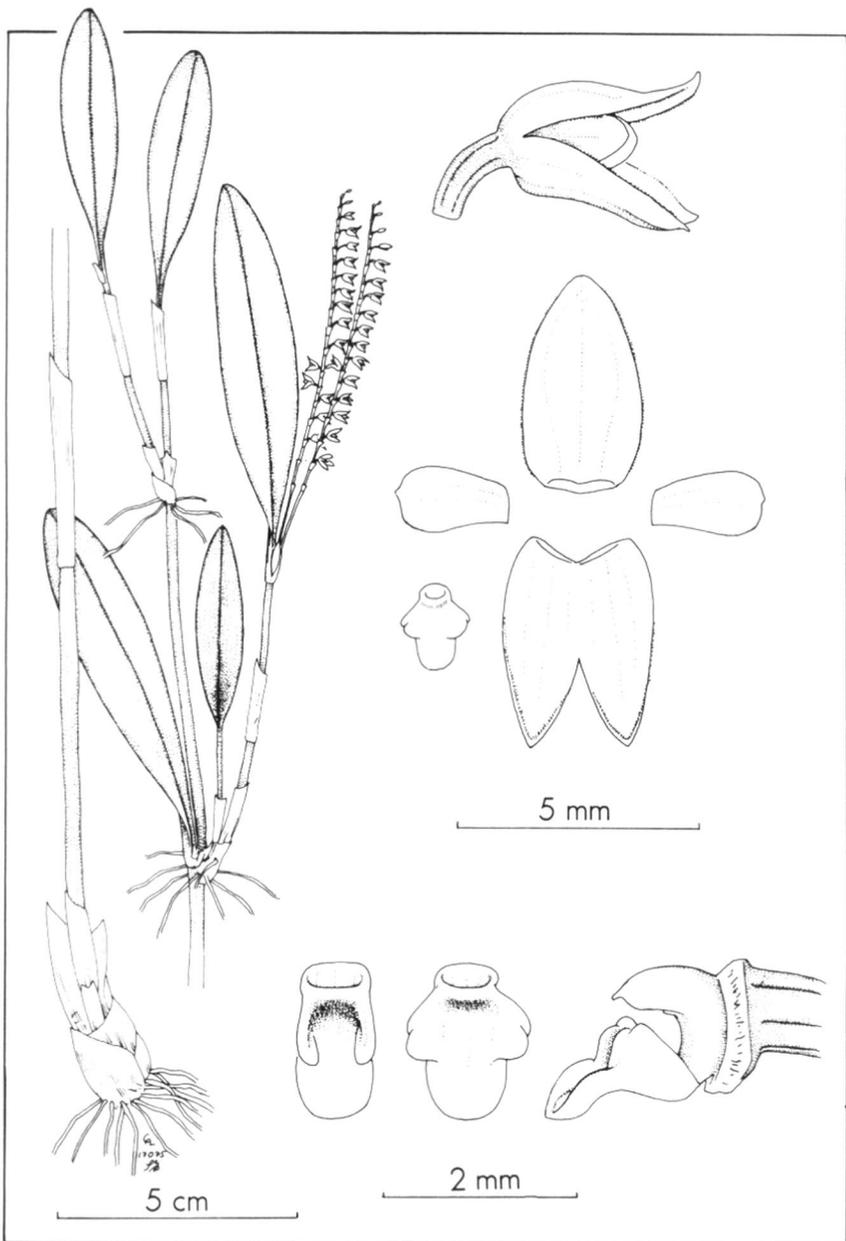


Fig. 69. *Pleurothallis virgata*