

Acianthera mendozae Luer, sp. nov. TYPE: Bolivia—La Paz: Prov. Franz Tamay, between Apolo and Santa Cruz del Valle Ameno, alt. 1600 m, collected by Luis Mendoza, 2007, flowered in cultivation, Sept. 2008, in Hales Corner, WI, by C. Rojohn s.n. (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21317. FIGURE 1.

Inter species generis Aciantherae planta parva repens, foliis pendentibus anguste linearibus crassissimis quam ramicaulibus longioribus, racemo brevi paucifloro floribus aurantiacis, sepalo dorsali lineari, synsepalo elliptico brevissime bidentato, petalis oblongis acutis microscopice serrulatis, et labello elliptico acuto minutissime serrulato infra medium breviter lobato distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, repent, the rhizome stout, 1–1.5 cm long between ramicauls; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, 1.5–3 cm long, enclosed below the middle by a tubular sheath from the base. **Leaf** pendent, thickly coriaceous, rigid, narrowly linear, acute, slightly curved, shallowly channeled, 4–8 cm long, 0.5–0.6 cm wide, narrowed below to the sessile base. **Inflorescence** a single, 1- to 2-flowered raceme, 1–1.5 cm long lying in the sulcus of the leaf, the peduncle ca. 1 cm long, subtended by a spathe 3–4 mm long from the base of the leaf; pedicels stout, 1 mm long; floral bracts 3 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; flowers bright orange, **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal erect, linear-

oblong, acute, 11 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an elliptical synsepal, acute, 11 mm long, 7 mm wide, 6-veined, shortly bifid at the tip; *petals* membranous, oblong, acute, microscopically serrate above the middle, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined; *lip* elliptical, acute, 6 mm long, 2 mm wide, with small, acute, antrorse lateral lobes below the middle, minutely serrulate and spiculate at the apex, the base truncate, channeled between longitudinal calli from the disc, hinged to the base of the column; *column* semiterete, 5 mm long, the anther and stigma ventral, the foot stout, 2 mm long.

Etymology. Named for Luis Mendoza of Vilcabamba, Ecuador, who first collected this species.

Comments. Although the morphological features of the bright orange flower are not unusual in the genus *Acianthera* Scheidw., the vegetative features of this species are distinctive. From a creeping rhizome, descending ramicauls are produced at intervals of about a centimeter to bear a thick, narrowly linear, pendent leaf. From the narrow base, a bright orange flower is borne singly or in a short, 2-flowered raceme.

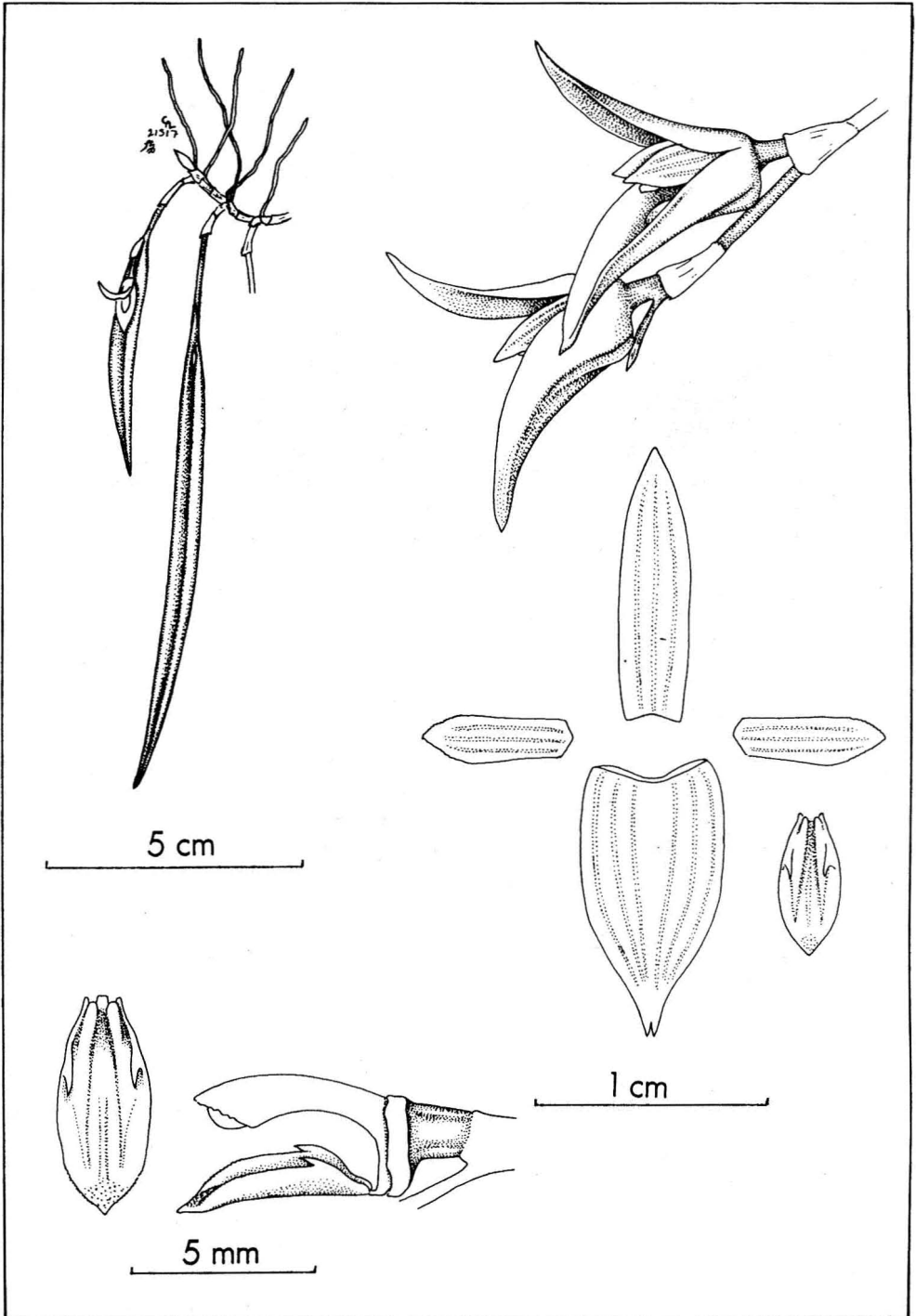


FIGURE 1. *Acianthera mendozae* Luer, C. Luer illustr. 21317.