

**Acronia neossa** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov. TYPE: Ecuador—Carchi: Río Blanco, along new road between Carolina and Chical, alt. 1800 m, 10 Apr. 2007, A. Hirtz, L. Grobler *et al.* 9215 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21271. FIGURE 6.

three-lobed lip embraces a protruding, terete column.

*Inter species Acroniae sectionis Amphygiae flores mediocris, pedunculo subnullo, pedicello breve, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque expansis, petalis erectis minutissime denticulatis ovatis supra medium constrictis, labello unguiculato trilobo columnam amplectenti distinguitur.*

**Plant** small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, caespitose. Ramicauls slender, erect, round in cross section, 7–9 cm long, with a close, tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base. **Leaf** suberect to horizontal, thinly coriaceous, ovate, acute, acuminate, 3.5–4 cm long, 1.2 cm wide, the base obtuse, sessile. **Inflorescence** a single flower borne by a suberect pedicel 5 mm long with floral bract 2 mm long, from a peduncle ca. 0.5 mm long within a prostrate spathe 2 mm long, at the base of the leaf; ovary 2 mm long; flower color unknown; **sepals** microscopically cellular on the margins, dorsal sepal erect, curved forward above the middle, ovate, acute, 4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, free from the synsepal, the lateral sepals connate to an ovate synsepal, slightly acuminate and shortly bifid at the tip, 4 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** obliquely ovate, minutely denticulate, 2 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, 3-veined, contracted above the middle into a narrow, oblique, acute, terminal segment, recurved in the natural position; **lip** transversely trilobed, with microscopically cellular-denticulate margins, unguiculate, 1.5 mm long, 2 mm wide across the broadly rounded, lateral lobes expanded, 3-veined, the apical lobe equally rounded, the claw 0.5 mm long, connate to the base of the column, the lateral lobes erect and flanking the column in the natural position; **column** terete, 2 mm long, the anther and single-lobed stigma apical, the foot obsolescent.

**Etymology.** From the Greek *neossos*, “a nestling,” in allusion to the petals that resemble the wings of a hungry, baby bird.

**Comments.** This little species of *Acronia* section *Amphygia* is characterized by narrowly ovate, acute leaves; slender ramicauls; and a single, resupinate flower borne on top of the leaf by a short, suberect pedicel, which emerges from a much shorter peduncle deep within a small, reclining spathe at the base of the leaf. The ovate dorsal sepal and synsepal are about equal in size and shape; the petals recurve like a pair of little wings above the column; and a

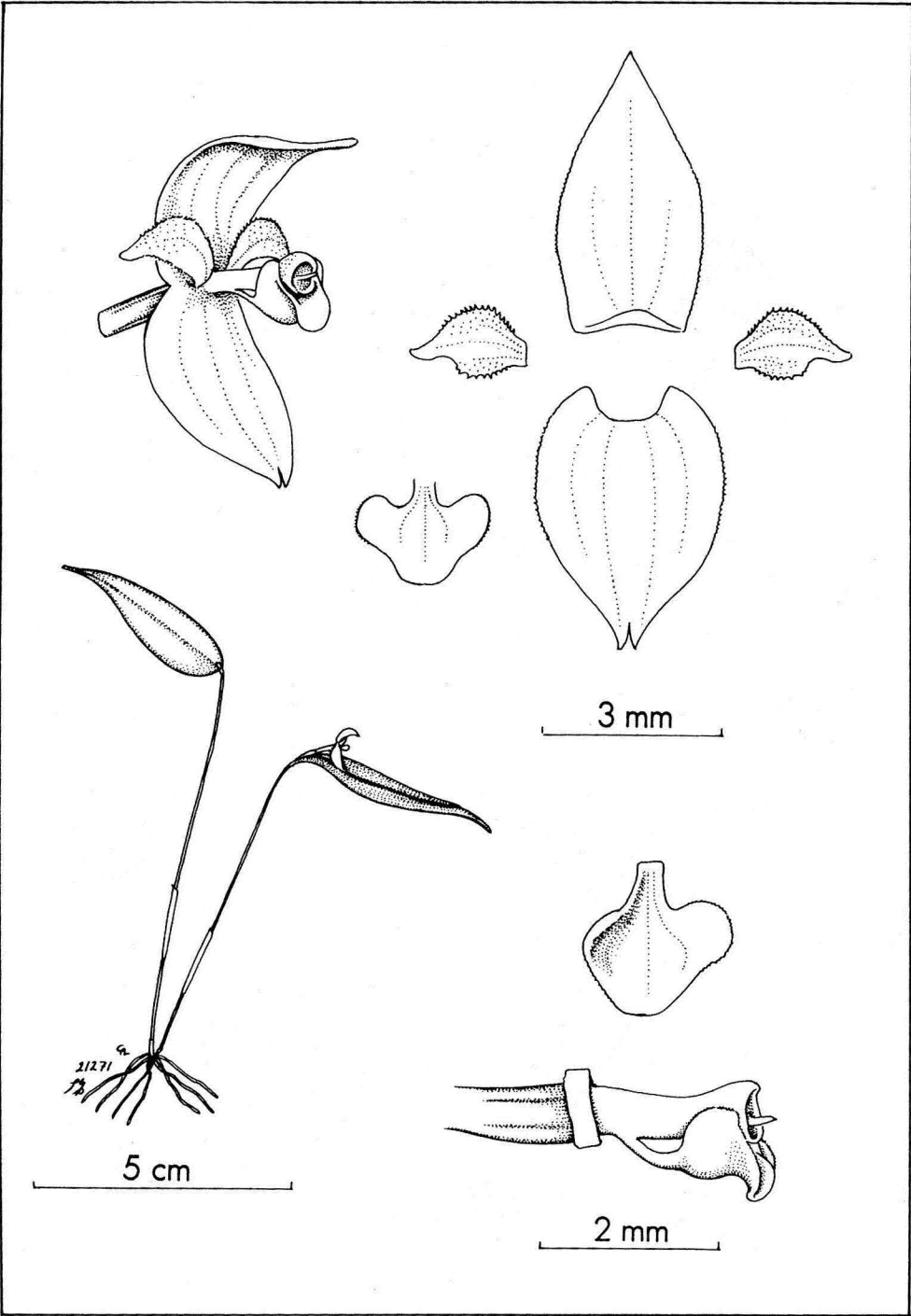


FIGURE 6. *Aconia neossa* Luer & Hirtz, C. Luer illustr. 21271.