

***Acronia tobarii* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Fig. 4.

Ety.: Named for Francisco Tobar of Mindo, co-collector of this species.

Species haec *Acroniae cardiostolae* (Rchb.f.) Luer affinis, sed cauliorum vaginis hispidis foliis gracilioribus et labello oblongo obtuso differt.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 25-28 cm long, with a close, hispidous, tubular sheath below the middle and 2-3 shorter but similarly hispidous sheaths at the base. **Leaf** spreading, more or less horizontal, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, 12-14 cm long, 2 cm wide in the dry state, the apex acuminate, acute, the base sessile, deeply cordate with the lobes up to 1 cm deep. **Inflorescence** a single, successive flower borne from a suberect, conduplicate spathe, 2 cm long, 6 mm broad, at the base of the leaf; peduncles 1-2 mm long, confined within the spathe with the floral bracts, floral bracts ca. 15 mm long; pedicels 20 mm long; ovary 8-10 mm long, cellular-glandular; flowers resupinate or non-resupinate; **sepals** minutely pubescent externally, cellular-papillose within, the middle sepal ovate to broadly ovate, subacute to obtuse, more or less convex, 12 mm long, 8-11 mm wide, 5-7 veined the lateral sepals olive. connate into a narrowly ovate, acute synsepal, with more or less recurved sides, 14-15 mm long, 6 mm wide expanded, 8-veined; **petals** dark red-brown, cellular-papillose, with ciliate-denticulate margins, elliptical-ovate, acute, narrowed below the middle, 11 mm long, 3.5-5.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** glabrous, olive-brown, oblong, thick, the apex and basal angles obtuse, 4.5-5.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the disc slightly cleft toward the apex, the base concave, with a short, thick, claw, firmly hinged to the column-foot; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 2.5 mm broad, the anther and bilobed stigma apical, the foot rudimentary.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: new road between Guamote and Macas, alt. 2800 m, 14 Oct. 2004, A. Hirtz, E. Sánchez, F. Tobar & W. Bautz 9090 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20921.

Pubescent or hispidous sheaths of the ramicauls are apparently isolated and rare occurrences in *Acronia* section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae*. The only other members of the genus known to have such sheaths are *A. crateriformis* (C. Schweinf.) Luer and *A. muriculata* (Luer & Hirtz) Luer. With the conspicuous spathe, *A. tobarii* is apparently related to species similar to *A. lilijae* (Foldats) Luer, and not closely allied to either of the above.

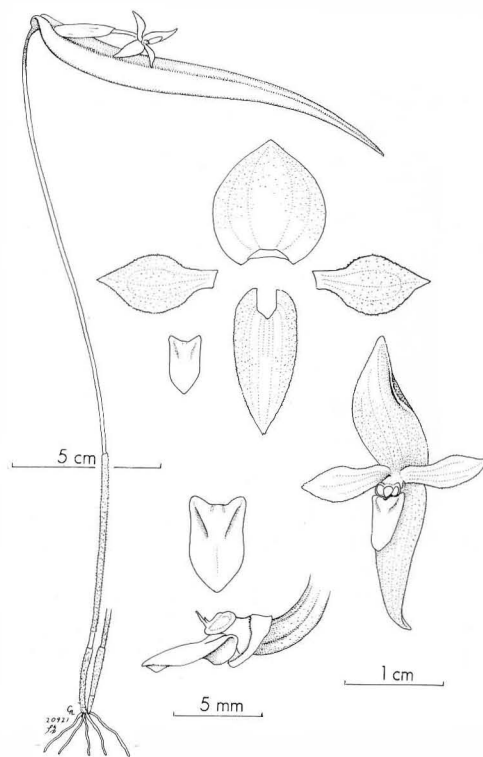


Fig. 4. *Acronia tobarii*