

**Acronia wernerii** Luer & Thoele, *sp. nov.*  
TYPE: ECUADOR: Zamora-Chinchipe: Alto Nangaritzta, along Rio Nangaritzta, alt. 1000 m, 4 November 2006, F.A. Werner 1678 (Holotype: LOJA, Isotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 21626. Fig. 7.

*Inter species generis Acroniae Presl sect. Acroniae, planta mediocris caespitosa, racemo paucifloro foliis angustissime linearibus multibreviore, floribus parvis, sepalo synsepaloque similis, petalis anguste linearibus, labello ovato acuto distinguitur.*

*Plant* medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. *Ramicauls* slender, suberect to pendent, 5–8 cm long, enclosed below the middle by 2 close, ribbed, tubular sheaths. *Leaf* coriaceous, more or less pendent, narrowly linear, acute, 3–5.5 cm long, more or less 0.5 cm wide, narrowed below into a sessile base. *Inflorescence* a pendent, 1- to 3-flowered raceme, ca. 3 cm long, including the peduncle less than 1 cm long, borne from a reclining spathe 5–6 mm long at the base of the leaf; floral bracts 1.5–2 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; flowers white; *sepals* glabrous, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate to the tips into an ovate synsepal, with the acute tip minutely retuse, 4 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, 4-veined; *petals* narrowly linear, glabrous, subacute, 4 mm long, 0.4 mm wide, 1-veined; *lip* white, ovate, glabrous, cellular at most, featureless, shallowly concave, 2 mm long, 1.3 mm wide at the truncate base, 3-veined; *column* stout, semiterete, 1 mm long, the anther and bilobed stigma apical.

**Etymology:** Named for the collector, Dr. Florian Werner of the University of Oldenburg, Germany, coordinator of “Dynamics of epiphyte diversity in disturbed and undisturbed tropical montane forest” at the San Francisco Science Center in the province of Zamora-Chinchipe, Ecuador.

This species of *Acronia* Presl sect. *Acronia* is apparently endemic in southeastern Ecuador. It is characterized by densely caespitose, slender ramicauls with narrowly linear leaves that eventually become pendent, and a short, loose raceme of one to three small, white flowers. The dorsal sepal is erect, triangular and acute, and the lateral sepals are connate into an ovate synsepal, while narrowly linear petals protrude to either side. The lip is simply ovate and acute.

