

***Acronia folsomii* Luer & Endara, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for James A. Folsom who collected this species.

Species haec *A. homalanthae* Schltr. affinis, sed habitu floribusque majoribus, spatha grandi latiore, sepalis obtusis, petalis oblongis serrulatis et labello ovato obtuso serrulatis differt.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls stout, erect, terete, 10-25 cm long, with a tubular sheath on the lower third and 2-3 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** coriaceous, spreading, ovate, obtuse, acuminate, 7-9 cm long, 4-6.5 cm wide, the base deeply cordate, sessile. **Inflorescence** 2-8 single flowers produced simultaneously from a broad spathe 1 cm long at the base of the leaf; peduncles 2-3 mm long; pedicels 5-6 mm long; floral bract 5 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** yellow, more or less suffused with purplish brown, glabrous, the dorsal sepal elliptical, obtuse, 13 mm long, 7 mm wide, 5-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, subacute synsepal, 12 mm long, 7.5 mm wide, 6-veined; **petals** oblong, oblique, subacute, serrate, 6 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** ovate, obtuse, serrate, the midvein thickened beneath the apex, 5.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the disc shallowly concave with a glenion with elevated margins at the base, the base concave, hinged to the base of the column-foot; **column** stout, semiterete, 1 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the anther and transverse stigma apical.

PANAMA: **Chiriquí**: Cerro Colorado, along ridge road near border with Bocas del Toro, alt. 1400-1700 m, 24 Oct. 1977, J.A. Folsom 6096 (Holotype: MO; Isotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 20448; same collection data, J.A. Folsom 6094 (MO); Cerro Colorado, 19 Feb. 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & R.L. Dressler 1467 (SEL); border between Chiriquí and Bocas del Toro, access road above mine, alt. 1600-1700 m, 14 Aug. 1977, J.A. Folsom, G. Small & R. Robbins 4738 (MO); Fortuna Dam site, top of mountain above camp, alt. 1700 m, 13 Sept. 1977, J.A. Folsom, R.L. Dressler & K. Dressler 5437 (MO), C. Luer illustr. 20812.

This large species is apparently restricted to the mountains of western Panama. It is most similar to the sympatric *Acronia homalantha*, but is characterized by a larger habit with stout ramicauls that bear a horizontal, deeply cordate leaf. The larger flowers are borne singly, or in a few-flowered fascicle from a short but large and broad spathe at the base of the leaf. The sepals are obtuse, the dorsal is six-veined, the petals are oblong, and the lip is oblong with the apex rounded. The petals are minutely serrate in Folsom's first collection, but are smooth in subsequent collections, all else being equal.

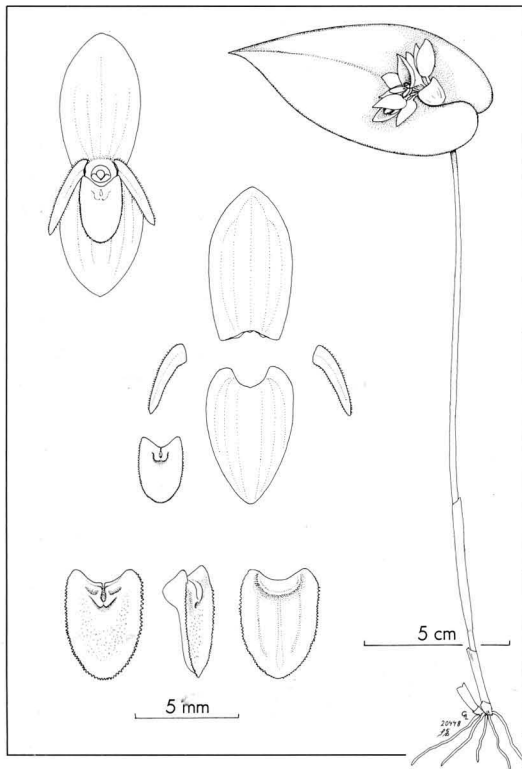


Fig. 86. *Acronia folsomii*