

***Acronia pyelophera* Luer, sp. nov.**

Fig. 3.

Ety.: From the Greek *pyelopher*, "tub-bearer," referring to the labellum.

Species haec *Acroniae cardiostolae* (Rchb.f.) Luer affinis, sed spatha reclinata, ovario densissime minuti-papilloso, sepalis rubrostriatis et labello alveolato differt.

Plant medium in size, presumably epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 7-10 cm long, with a loose sheath below the middle and 2-3 short sheaths at the base. **Leaf** spreading, more or less horizontal, rigidly coriaceous, dark green, ovate with the sides more or less incurved below the middle, 5.5-7 cm long, 3.5-4 cm wide, the apex acute, the base sessile, deeply cordate with the lobes about 1 cm deep. **Inflorescence** a single, successive flower borne from a reclining spathe, 11-12 mm long, at the base of the leaf; peduncles 1-2 mm long, confined within the spathe with the floral bracts and pedicels, the floral bracts 8-10 mm long; pedicels 10-12 mm long; ovary 3.5 mm long, densely minutely papillose; flowers non-resupinate; **sepals** dull rose with prominent, red-purple stripes along the veins, glabrous, the lowermost middle sepal subcircular, obtuse, more or less convex below the middle, 10 mm long, 9 mm wide, 7- to 8-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, subacute, concave, uppermost synsepal, 11 mm long, 6.5 mm wide expanded, 6-veined; **petals** red-purple, oblong, acute, slightly curved, with cellular margins, 9 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined; **lip** red-purple, thickly scaphoid, with the apex obtuse, 5.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, the disc longitudinally concave with broad, minutely papillose margins, the base concave, firmly attached below to the column-foot; **column** stout, 2 mm long, 3 mm broad, the anther and bilobed stigma apical, the base of the column broad, thick.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: without collection data, collected by Ecuagenera, cultivated in Howell, MI, Feb, 2006, by L. O'Shaughnessy 03047 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21004.

Among the species related to *Acronia cardiostola* in *Acronia* section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae*, this species is superficially similar to the preceding species. The non-resupinate, prominently purple-striped flower rests at the base of a horizontal or descending, rigidly coriaceous, dark green leaf. The middle sepal is round while the uppermost synsepal is scaphoid. The lip is thickly ovoid and concave centrally with broad margins, appearing very similar to the warty lip of *Acronia phymatodea* (Luer) Luer.

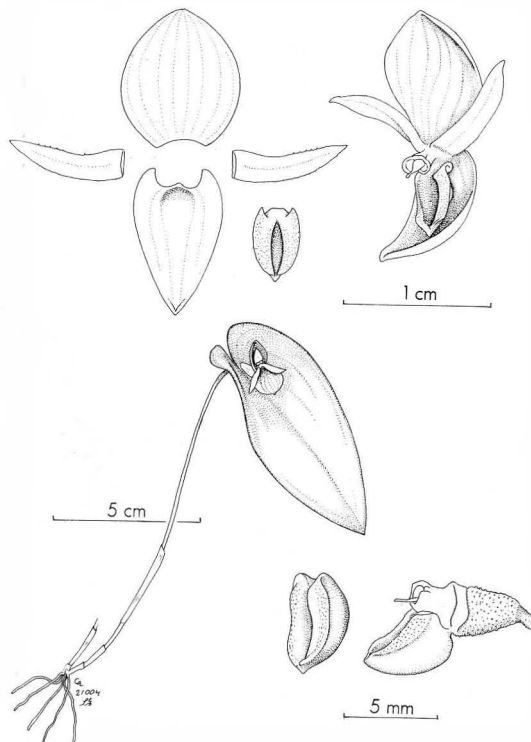


Fig. 3. *Acronia pyelophera*