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First record of *Acianthera saurocephala* (Orchidaceae, Pleurothallidinae) for the Brazilian Midwest

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Abstract

This note aims to report the first record of *Acianthera saurocephala* in the Brazilian Midwest (Mato Grosso do Sul). A morphological description of the species as well as informations on its phenology, habitat and geographical distribution are provided, together with a photograph plate.

Résumé

L'objectif de cette note est de rapporter la première occurrence de *Acianthera saurocephala* dans la région Centre-Ouest du Brésil (Mato Grosso do Sul). Nous proposons une description morphologique détaillée du taxon et précisons sa phénologie, son habitat et sa distribution géographique. Une planche de photographies, illustrant l'espèce, complète cette présentation.

Resumo

Este trabalho teve como objetivo relatar o primeiro registro de *Acianthera saurocephala* para o centro-oeste brasileiro (Mato Grosso do Sul). É apresentada uma descrição para a espécie em questão, bem como informações referente a floração, habitat e distribuição. É apresentada também uma prancha fotográfica detalhada da espécie aqui abordada.

Key words: flora, gallery forest, Mato Grosso do Sul, new occurrence, orchids.

Mots clés: flore, forêt galerie, Mato Grosso do Sul, nouvelle occurrence, orchidées.

Palavras-chave: flora, floresta de galeria, Mato Grosso do Sul, nova ocorrência, Orquídeas.

Introduction

Acianthera Scheidweiler (1842: 292) has long been treated as a synonym of *Pleurothallis* R. Brown (1813: 211) until Pridgeon & Chase (2001) reestablished it. It is a neotropical genus occurring in the entire South America with its diversity center running from Panama to Peru, Venezuela and Brazil (Pridgeon, 1982; Luer, 1986). Its members are characterized by the following features: inflorescence a terminal raceme 1-many flowered, rising from near the abscission layer of the leaf; sepals thick, sometimes pubescent or verrucose, the laterals at least partly fused; petals short; lip usually thick, oblong or 3-lobed; gynostemium terete, usually winged, anther ventral (Luer, 1986). The genus contains 291 species (Almeida *et al.*, 2019) of which 134 species have been registered in Brazil, with a high endemism rate (111 species) (Flora do Brasil 2020, under construction).

Among them *Acianthera saurocephala* (Loddiges 1830: t. 1571) Pridgeon & M.W. Chase (2001: 246), a Brazilian endemic species, have hitherto been registered in the South and South-East regions and in the State of Bahia (Marinho & Azevedo, 2011; Flora do Brasil 2020, under construction). The present note broadens its distribution zone to the Midwest region, with its first record in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul.

Material and methods

A representant of *Acianthera saurocephala* was found and collected during occasional expeditions in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, more specifically in the municipality of Três Lagoas that borders the state of São Paulo. It

was herborized according to usual process described by Mori *et al.* (1989) and later has been included in the collections of the INPA herbarium (acronym according to Thiers, 2021).

The species was identified through specific works (e.g. Gonçalves, 2005; Gonçalves & Waechter, 2011; Marinho & Azevedo, 2011; Chiron & Bolsanello, 2013; Marinho & Azevedo, 2013; Vieira & Barros, 2017) and mainly through the original description by Loddiges (1830). The following description is based on the collected specimen. The terminology follows Harris & Harris (2001).

Results

Acianthera saurocephala (Loddiges) Pridgeon & M.W. Chase. [Fig. 1A-L]

Epiphytic creeping plant; stem terete, not swollen into pseudobulb, 6.1–12.3 × 0.2–0.3 cm, erect, green, covered by sheaths, 1-foliate; leaf 5.1–9.7 × 2.6–3.4 cm, oblong-elliptic, erect, thick, sessil, basally and apically obtuse; inflorescence a terminal raceme, 9.1–13.3 cm long, 13–22-flowered; spathe ca. 2.2 cm long, elliptic; floral bract ca. 0.3–0.5 × 0.4–0.5 cm, tubular; flower dark purple, shortly pedicellate; pedicel and ovary ca. 0.3–0.4 cm long, terete; sepals oblong-lanceolate, thick, inside papillose to verrucose, outside pilose, basally oblong, apically obtuse, dorsal sepal ca. 0.7 × 0.3 cm, lateral sepals ca. 0.7 × 0.2 cm, fused on up to 2/3 of their length; petals ca. 0.2 × 0.1 cm, deltoid, slightly asymmetric, basally attenuate, apically acute; lip ca. 0.2 × 0.1 cm, 3-lobed, fleshy, with two longitudinal calli near the margins of the median part, lateral lobes ca. 0.01 × 0.01 cm, orbicular, midlobe ca. 0.15 × 0.1 cm, ovate, obtuse; gynostemium ca. 0.15 cm long, slightly curved, winged near the apex, with ear-shaped projections on the sides of the stigma; anther ca. 0.04 cm long; pollinia 2, somewhat waxy, yellow, ovate, laterally flattened; fruit not seen.

Phenology. Flowering in March.

Habitat. The plants were observed in a gallery forest near a stream at ca. 2 m from the ground.

Distribution. Endemic to Brazil (Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina) (Marinho & Azevedo, 2011; Flora do Brasil 2020, under construction). With the present record its distribution is expanded to the Brazilian Midwest (Mato Grosso do Sul).

Material examined. Brazil, Mato Grosso do Sul, Três Lagoas, "Floresta de Galeria", fl. in cultivation 14/III/2021, A.H. Krahl 1559 (INPA).

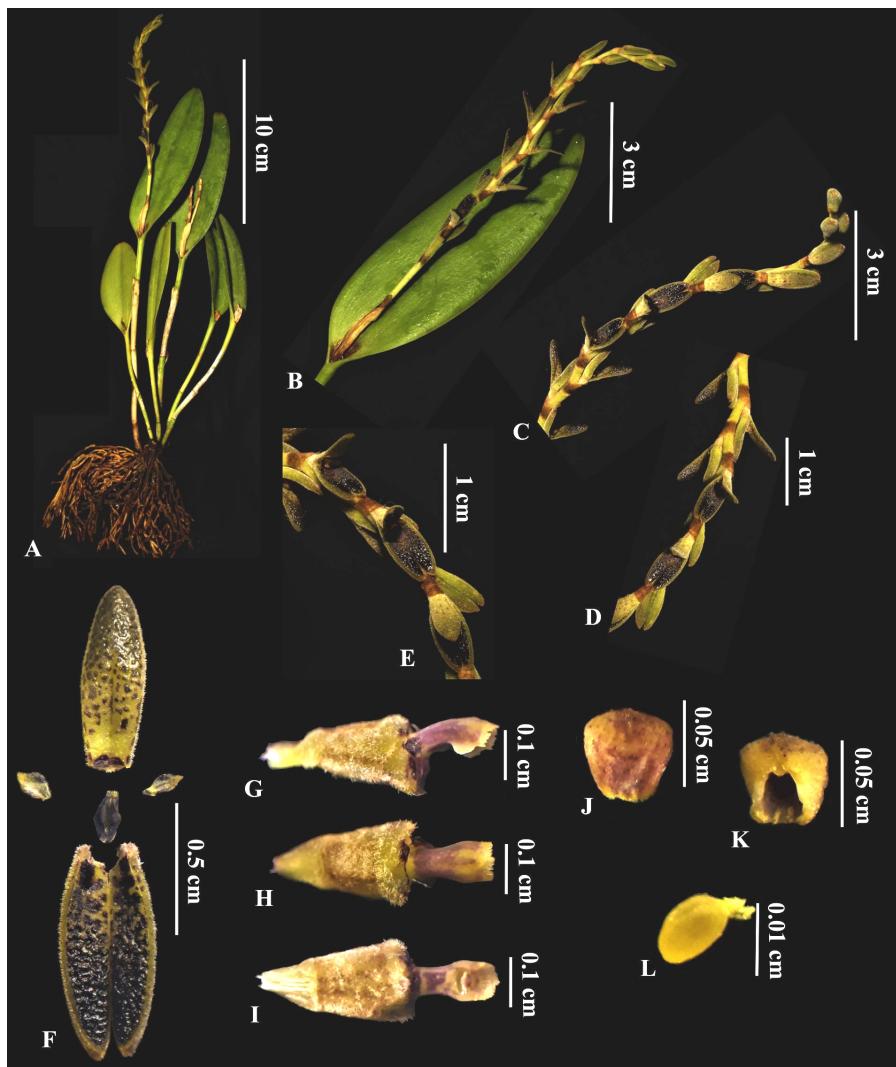


Fig. 1. *Acianthera saurocephala*

A. Habit. B-C. Inflorescence. D-E. Flowers. F. Floral segments. G-H-I. Gynostemium, respectively side view, back view, front view. J-K. Anther cap, respectively dorsal view, ventral view. L. Pollinia.

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