

AESCHYNANTHUS ARCTOCALYX, A NEW SPECIES FROM THE PHILIPPINES

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The new species *Aeschynanthus arctocalyx* Mendum & Madulid (Gesneriaceae) from Palawan, Philippines, is described.

***Aeschynanthus arctocalyx* Mendum & Madulid, sp. nov. Fig. 1.**

Ab omnibus speciebus *Aeschynanthi* insularum Philippinarum calyce minimo ad corollam arctissime adpresso insignis. Ad *A. cuernosensem* (Elmer) Schlechter, qui calycem brevem 5mm longum ad corollam 3.5cm longam haud adpressum habet, ut videtur proxima sed calyce brevior (3mm longo) et corolla minore (2–2.2cm longa) recedit.

Type: Specimen cult. RBGE, accession no. 19922776, originating from Philippines, Palawan, Mt Mantalingajan, 1000–1100m, 5 iii 1992, collected by Dr G. Argent, GAM 21 (holo. PNH; iso. BRIT, E, K, L).

Sub-shrubby epiphyte. *Stems* light green, pendulous, flexuous, branching near the base, 2mm thick and up to 1m long, rooting from the nodes, sparsely pilose, hairs 0.1–0.2mm, eglandular, internodes to 3cm. *Leaves* opposite, rather fleshy, ovate to elliptic, somewhat convex, pale green above, very pale below; blade 2–4.5 × 1.1–2.8cm, apex bluntly acuminate, base rounded, margins entire with fine hairs towards base, midvein below thick and translucent with scattered adpressed hairs; petiole green, 4–8mm long with scattered hairs. *Inflorescence* in leaf axils towards tips of branches, 2- or rarely 1-flowered, peduncle 1–3(–6)mm, sparsely pilose. *Bracts* triangular, *bracteoles* ovate, to 1mm. *Pedicels* green, 6mm long, 1mm thick, abruptly widened to 3mm in the apical 1.5mm, glabrous or occasionally with scattered papillae. *Calyx* pale greenish yellow, tubular, 3mm long, very shallowly lobed in the apical 0.5mm, glabrous or occasionally with scattered papillae, very tightly adpressed to the corolla. *Corolla* arcuate, tubular, 2–2.2cm long, abruptly widening above calyx, pale scarlet, pale yellow inside tube, 3 lower lobes with darker lines and marks; upper lobes 5 × 2.5mm, rounded, side lobes 5 × 7mm, bluntly triangular, lower lobe 6 × 5.5mm, rounded oblong, all fringed with glandular hairs; tube and lobes on outside with scattered minute glandular hairs, on inside with thickened papillate areas where lobes fuse and on floor of nectar-containing tube. *Stamens* 4, inserted about 7mm from base of corolla and not exerted, upper filaments 1.1cm, lower filaments 1.5cm, all yellow and sparsely papillate towards base, pink at apex, anthers 1.5mm, grey; staminode minute. *Ovary* and stipe pale green, length at anthesis 1.5cm, ovary

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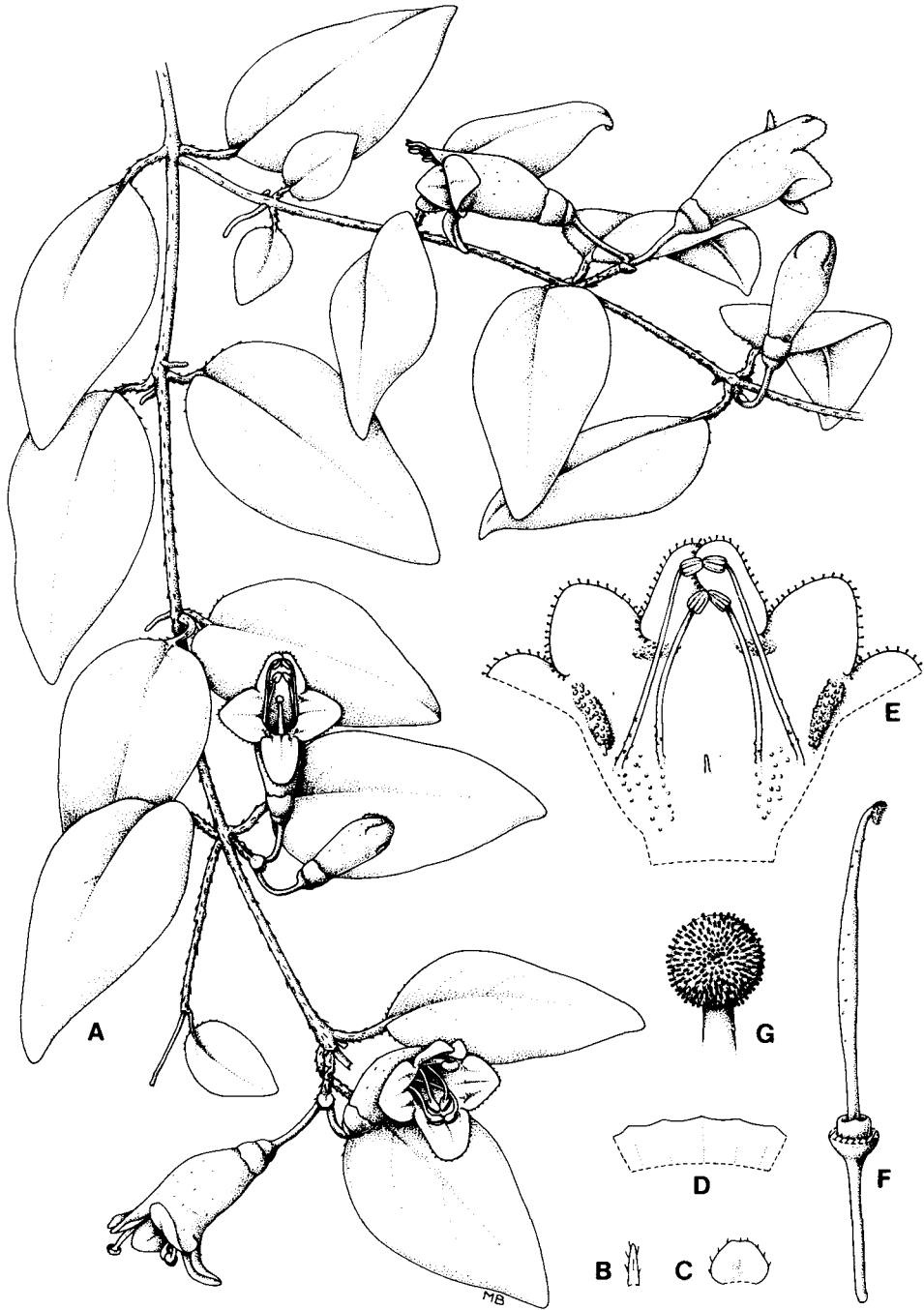


FIG. 1. *Aeschynanthus arctocalyx* Mendum & Madulid. A, habit ($\times 1$); B, bract ($\times 6$); C, bracteole ($\times 6$); D, calyx ($\times 2$); E, corolla ($\times 2$); F, ovary, style and stigma ($\times 2$); G, stigma ($\times 6$).

sparsely papillate. *Style* 3mm, pale green, sparsely papillate. *Ripe stigma* 2mm diameter, densely covered in 0.1mm glandular hairs. *Fruit* and *seed* not seen.

This species is easily recognized by the very small, tightly adpressed calyx which does not occur in any other Philippine species (Merrill, 1923). It appears to be closest to *A. cuernosensis* (Elmer) Schlechter which has a short 5mm cylindrical calyx but this is not adpressed to the 3.5cm corolla (Elmer, 1908: 566). Because the plant did not set seed after hand-pollination it is not possible to assign it to a section. There is a specimen at Kew collected in 1947 from Mt Mantalingajan by G. E. Edaño (Phil. Nat. Herb. 320) bearing an unpublished name proposed by Merrill & Quisumbing. Although the leaves are a good match and it may well be the same species, there are unfortunately no flowers to confirm this and so the epithet is not here taken up; *arctocalyx* refers to the tight calyx characteristic of this species.

The plant was collected as a vegetative cutting by Dr George Argent, in lower montane rainforest on Mt Mantalingajan on the island of Palawan. It first flowered in Edinburgh in 1994.

Distribution. Known only from the island of Palawan, Philippines.

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