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New World Orchidaceae – Nomenclatural Notes

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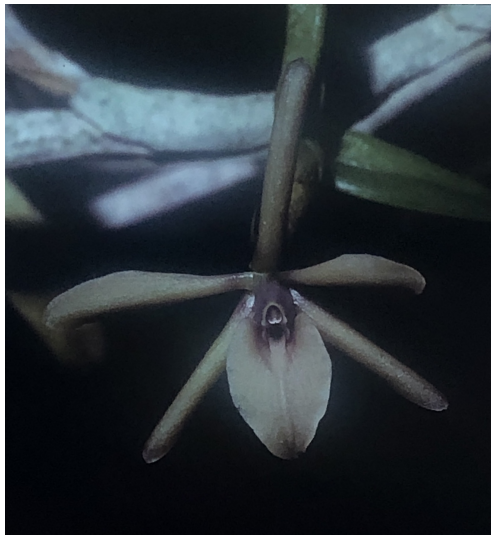
*Epidendrum acuña*e Dressler Extinct in Florida.

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Abstract

*Epidendrum acuña*e Dressler was an abundant localized species in South Florida. In 1977 a local collector removed almost all the plants except for one. This one plant died due to natural causes. A specimen was made with the dead plant and besides the literature is the only record that the species existed in Florida.



*Epidendrum acuña*e Dressler

This photograph was taken July 1978 insitu at a lake just north of the William Janes Senic Drive in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. This was the last remaining plant of what was once a large localized population. The plants had been illegally collected by a local orchid grower the previous year. The plants required a specialized habitat which the collector could not provide. All of the collected plants soon perished. Although the preserve was established in 1974 the rules and regulations pertaining to the preserve were not strongly enforced. Many orchid collectors entered the preserve and removed rare and endangered species only to have them perish. At the time this photograph was taken, the flowers were artificially self-pollinated to acquire seeds to use to repopulate the species. Upon returning four months later to collect seeds, the pop ash on which the plant had been growing had collapsed into the water. The plant did not survive. The dead plant was collected and a herbarium specimen was made and deposited at the University of South Florida herbarium with a duplicate at FTG. Besides the

literature this is the only record that this species existed in Florida. Unless a new population is discovered this species can be considered extinct in Florida.

*Epidendrum acuña*e Dressler

Spathiger roigii Acuna, Estac. Expec Agron. Bot. Tec, 60 : 93. 1939. Without Latin diagnosis.

Epidendrum ramosum var. *lanceolatum* Griseb. , Fl. British West Indies 61 8. 1864.

Herbarium data (USF):

Accepted name *Epidendrum blancheanum* Urb. - Determined By: B. F. Hansen, 1985

Determination *Epidendrum acuña*e Dressler - Determined By: R. P. Sauleda, 1974

History:

Locality: Florida, Collier Co., Contact USF Herbarium if additional information is required.

Description: Epiphytic on pop ash. Plant dead at time of collection, had been growing on large pop ash which died and fell into water, causing orchid to die. No other plants found in general area. Duplicate at FTG.

Collector: R. P. Sauleda 942

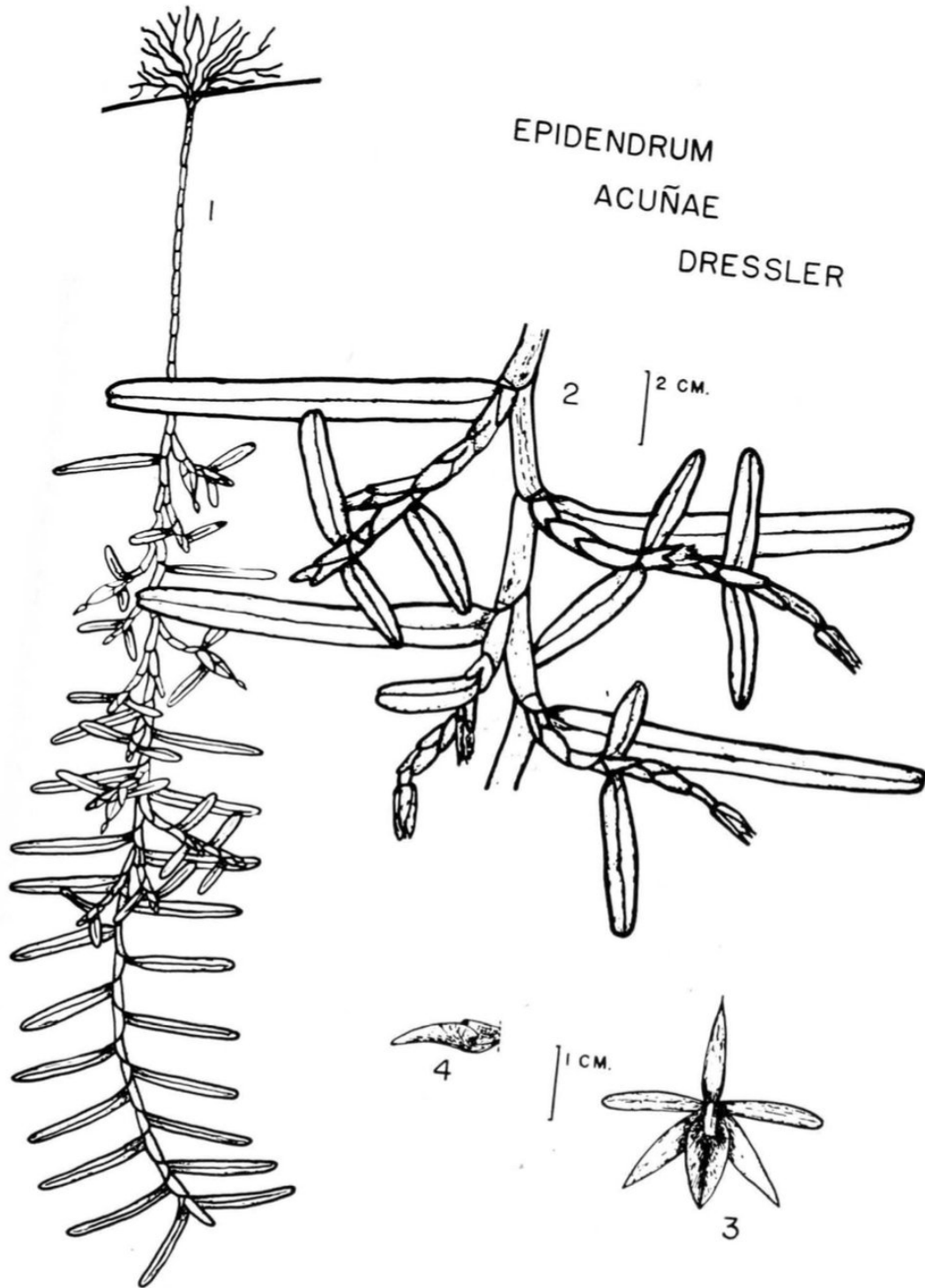
Date: 18 Jun 1974

Accession No: 172381

The specimen at USF was determined originally in 1974 by Sauleda to be *Epidendrum acuña*e Dressler a name accepted by KEW with a distribution of Cuba, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The in 1985 the specimen at USF was determined by Hanson to be *Epidendrum blancheanum* Urb. Kew accepts both as valid and distinct species and reports the native range of *E. blancheanum* as Haiti.

Note: On the website of the Friends of Fakahatchee (https://orchidswamp.org/lost-and-found-in-cuba-part-7/e_acunae_on_royal_palm/) is a photograph labeled *Epidendrum acunae* on royal palm without any information as to origin or when the photograph was taken. The plant in the picture could be a young plant of *Epidendrum rigidum* which is very common in the Fakahatchee.

Note: Approximatley 9 years ago a project was announced between botanists from the United States and Cuba to import seeds of *E. acuña*e from Cuba to repopulate the original habitat in Fakahatchee (<https://cubanospoelmundo.com/2015>). However, no further report has been made on this project. Although, the population in Cuba is the same species, the two populations were reproductively isolated with distinct genomes.



EPIDENDRUM
ACUÑAE
DRESSLER

Type illustration from American Orchid Society Bulletin, p.359, 1959.

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
HERBARIUM
172381



Epidendrum blancheanum Urban

Bruce F. Hansen
University of South Florida

1985

PLANTS OF FLORIDA

50

Orchidaceae

Epidendrum acunae Dressler

Collier County, Fakahatchee Swamp, epiphytic on Pop Ash. Plant dead at time of collection, had been growing on large Pop Ash which died and fell into water, causing orchid to die. No other plants found in general area.

LOCALITY DATA OBSCURED

Duplicate at FTG.

18 June 1974

R. P. Saulea 942

THE HERBARIUM
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33620

Voucher specimen at USF.