

Dieffenbachia Schott

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This treatment is composed of the following taxa: *Dieffenbachia*, *Dieffenbachia aglaonematifolia*, *Dieffenbachia bowmanni*, *Dieffenbachia cannifolia*, *Dieffenbachia costata*, *Dieffenbachia duidae*, *Dieffenbachia elegans*, *Dieffenbachia gracilis*, *Dieffenbachia humilis*, *Dieffenbachia paludicola*, *Dieffenbachia parvifolia*, *Dieffenbachia seguine*.

HOW TO CITE

Mayo, S.J. 2020. *Dieffenbachia* in **Flora do Brasil 2020**. Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro. Available at: <http://floradobrasil.jbrj.gov.br/reflora/floradobrasil/FB15628>.

Has as synonym

heterotypic *Maguirea* A.D.Hawkes

heterotypic *Sequinum* Raf.

DESCRIPTION

This description is from Mayo, S.J., Bogner, J. & Boyce, P.C. (1997). The genera of Araceae. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. **HABIT** : evergreen herbs, sometimes robust, stems erect to decumbent, sometimes \pm rhizomatous, rooting proximally, foliose distally, erect and unbranched distally, internodes distinct, green, smooth, with conspicuous annular leaf scars. **LEAVES** : numerous. **PETIOLE** : sheath more than half as long as petiole or reaching blade. **BLADE** : oblong-ovate, elliptic to oblanceolate, dark to light green or sometimes variegated with white, silver, yellow or various shades of green; midrib thick, sulcate or prominent on upper surface, primary lateral veins pinnate, sometimes only weakly differentiated, running into margin, secondary laterals parallel-pinnate, connected by transverse tertiary veins. **INFLORESCENCE** : (1-)2-several in each floral sympodium, cataphylls short and usually inconspicuous. **PEDUNCLE** : shorter than petiole. **SPATHE** : persistent, slightly or distinctly constricted between tube and blade, green, lower part convolute into a usually rather long, persistent tube which splits longitudinally in fruit, upper part expanded into a short, erect or recurved blade. **SPADIX** : slightly shorter than spathe, female zone entirely adnate to spathe, enclosed within tube, laxly flowered, separated from male zone by subnaked axis with a few, scattered sterile male flowers with reduced staminodes, rarely fertile zones contiguous (*D. humilis*), male zone fertile to apex, free, subcylindric, densely flowered, erect. **FLOWERS** : unisexual, perigone absent. **MALE FLOWER** : stamens 4-5, connate into a subsessile, rhomboid to hexagonal synandrium, truncate at apex, sulcate laterally, anthers lateral, common connective thick, fleshy, thecae oblong-ellipsoid, dehiscing by short, apical, pore-like slit. **POLLEN** : extruded in strands, inaperturate, ellipsoid to oblong or nearly spherical, large (mean 79 μm ., range 54-99 μm .), exine almost perfectly psilate to obscurely verruculate and/or sparingly punctate-foveolate to densely foveolate, rarely coarsely tuberculate (*D. parlatorei*). **STERILE MALE FLOWERS** : composed of a whorl of (3-)4-5(-6), \pm flattened, irregularly globose-ellipsoid, sometimes \pm connate staminodes. **FEMALE FLOWER** : staminodes 4-5 in a whorl, white, clavate with rounded apices, spreading to erect, surrounding and longer than gynoecium; ovary stout, subglobose to ovoid, thickwalled, 1-3-locular, locule walls bulging outwards giving ovary distinctly lobed appearance when plurilocular, ovules 1 per locule, anatropous, placenta axile to basal, style inconspicuous, stigma massive, almost as broad to broader than ovary, 2-3-lobed or subhemispheric (when unilocular), usually yellow, saturated with oily secretion at anthesis. **BERRY** : usually borne in arching infructescence, berries globose to 2-3-furrowed, stigma remnants persistent, 1-3-seeded, scarlet red to orange. **SEED** : globose to ovoid, testa smooth, green to blackish green, embryo large, endosperm absent.

COMMENTS

Many of the species of *Dieffenbachia* in South America are still not well-understood. A revision is currently in progress led by Dr Thomas B. Croat, but has not yet been completed or published. A number of new species have been recognized by Dr Croat for Brazil, and it is anticipated that these will be published in the future. Most widely cultivated forms belong to the very variable species *D. seguine*, also known as *D. picta*, among the many other names which have been applied in the past to different horticulturally attractive variants.

Species records in Brazil east and southeast of the Cerrado and Amazonian biomes are unlikely to be of native plants. The only Brazilian species consistently reported outside the humid Amazonian forest biome is *D. aglaonematifolia*.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Aquatic, Terrestrial, Unknown

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest, Caatinga, Central Brazilian Savanna, Atlantic Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Riverine Forest and/or Gallery Forest, Inundated Forest (Igapó), Terra Firme Forest, Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Acre, Amazonas, Amapá, Pará, Rondônia, Tocantins)

Northeast (Ceará, Maranhão, Pernambuco)

Central-west (Goiás, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso)

South (Paraná)

Possible occurrences

Northeast (Bahia)

Central-west (Goiás)

Southeast (São Paulo)

South (Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul)

IDENTIFICATION KEY

1. Plant lacking upright aerial stem with leaves appearing in an acaulescent clump. Leaf blade adaxially uniform green, oblanceolate to obovate, long-cuneate towards base, 50-100 cm long or more, 5-7 times longer than wide. Peduncle 35-50 cm long. Wet places in primary forest.

paludicola

1'. Plant with upright aerial stem with leaves usually clustered towards stem apex. Leaf blade adaxially green or variegated, variously shaped, less than 60 cm long, 1.3 to 4 times longer than wide. Peduncle less than 30 cm long. Primary or secondary forest, wet or terra firme.

2

2. Spathe equalling or shorter than peduncle

3

2'. Spathe longer than peduncle

4

3. Petiole green. Inflorescences four or more per sympodium. Spathe usually less than 10 cm long. Petiole up to 23 cm long. Sheath reaching almost to petiole apex. Leaf blade uniform green, obovate or oblanceolate, secondary veins arising from basal half of midvein at angle greater than 80°

duidae

3'. Petiole white-spotted. Inflorescences less than four per sympodium. Spathe usually greater than 10 cm long. Petiole usually longer than 23 cm. Sheath less than half petiole length. Leaf blade often marbled with pale green, lanceolate, elliptic or oblong, secondary veins arising from basal half of midvein at angle less than 80°

humilis

4. Occurs outside the Amazon basin in Northeast, Central West and South Brazil

5

4'. Occurs within the Amazon basin in North Brazil

6

5. Helophytic plant of stream margins and wet places in humid forest. Leaf blade uniform green. Petiole with whitish striae towards the base. Free apical part of petiole D-shaped or subterete or sulcate adaxially.

aglaonematifolia

5'. Plant often found in secondary forest and disturbed areas. Leaf blade often variegated with spots and blotches of various kinds. Petiole usually green, sometimes densely pale green maculate. Free apical part of petiole acutely sulcate or canaliculate adaxially.

seguine

6. Plant usually 1 m or more in height

7

- 6'. Plant usually less than 1 m in height 10
7. Petiole minutely multicostate. Leaf blade relatively wide, 1.3 to 1.4 times longer than wide.
costata
- 7'. Petiole smooth. Leaf blade relatively narrower, usually 2 to 3.5 times longer than wide.
8
8. Leaf blade 3 to 3.5 times as long as wide, oblanceolate or obovate and gradually narrowing acutely towards base. Petiole one quarter of blade length. *cannifolia*
- 8'. Leaf blade 1.7 to 2 times as long as wide, oblong, ovate, elliptic, obovate to oblanceolate, base various but not narrowing acutely towards base. Petiole one fifth to four fifths the blade length 9
9. Stem branching vigorously at the base and forming clumps of erect shoots. Petiole less than half the blade length. Leaf blade oblong to ovate with obtuse or emarginate base, dark green with paler or yellowish patches. *bowmanni*
- 9'. Stem proximally decumbent, distally erect, not branching conspicuously at the base. Petiole more than half the blade length. Leaf blade varying from oblanceolate to lanceolate, often ovate to oblong-elliptic with base often differently shaped on each side varying from acute to cordate, uniform green or with diverse variegation patterns and colours.
seguine
10. Sheath half the petiole length or more. Spathe becoming orange to pale orange. Petiole unspotted. Peduncle usually less than 8 cm. 11
- 10'. Sheath less than half petiole length. Spathe pale green to green. Petiole white to paler spotted. Peduncle 7.5-25 cm long. 12
11. Leaf uniformly and intensely green. Peduncles several to many.
parvifolia
- 11'. Leaf dark green and variegated with paler blotches or paler along the midvein. Peduncle solitary.
elegans
12. Leaf blade ca. 15 cm long, 3.5-4 cm wide, 3.5-4.5 times longer than wide.
gracilis
- 12'. Leaf blade 20-40 cm long, 7-15 cm wide, 2.5-3 times longer than wide.
humilis

REFERENCE

- Barabé, D. & Gibernau, M. (2015). Aracées de Guyane française: Biologie et systématique. Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, IRD, Marseille.
- Croat, T.B. (2004). Revision of Dieffenbachia (Araceae) of Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 91: 668-772
- Engler, A. (1915). Dieffenbachia. In Engler, A., Das Pflanzenreich IV.23Dc. (Heft 64) Araceae-Philodendroideae-Anubiadeae, Aglaonemateae, Dieffenbachieae, Zantedeschieae, Typhonodoreae, Peltandreae. Pp. 36-61. W. Engelmann, Leipzig.
- Jonker-Verhoef and Jonker (1953, 1968). Araceae. Pp. 41-46 (1953), pp. 389-390 (1968) in Pulle, A.A., Lanjouw, J. (eds.), Flora of Suriname Vol. 1, Part 2 (Additions and Corrections 1968). Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam and E.J. Brill, Leiden.

Dieffenbachia aglaonematifolia Engl.

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching not or few branched; **habit** stem erect aerial/stem usually less than 1.0 height (m)/stem usually more than 1.0 height (m). **Leaf:** petiole length cm up to 23; petiole length / blade length half or more; petiole sheath length / petiole length more than half; petiole colour uniform green/white striate at the base; petiole texture smooth; leaf blade shape elliptic/oblong/ovate/lanceolate; leaf blade length cm less than 60; leaf blade width cm character absent; leaf blade length / width 2 to 3.5/2.5 to 3; leaf blade adaxial colour uniform green; leaf blade base shape acute/obtuse/rounded; leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees less than 80. **Inflorescence:** inflorescence number per sympodium 1/several/less than 4; peduncle length cm usually less than 8/less than 30; spathe length cm usually more than 10; spathe length / peduncle length more than 1.0; spathe colour when mature pale green to green.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Andrade et al. 2013, The Araceae in Ceará, Brazil: humid forest plants in a semi-arid region.

Rodriguésia 64(3): 445-477

Helophytic herb, to 0.5–2 m in height. Stem erect to decumbent, with a strong odour when cut or crushed; internodes conspicuous, green, prophylls 6.6–9 cm long. Petiole 8.3–13.3 cm long, green, cylindrical to somewhat sulcate adaxially, sheath more than $\frac{3}{4}$ the petiole length, green with whitish striae in basal part, lacking an apical geniculum. Leaf blade entire, oblong to ovate or oblong to elliptic, 13–35 cm long, 4.3–16.3 cm wide, coriaceous, adaxially dark green, abaxially paler with prominent midrib, apex cuspidate, base obtuse, margin entire, primary lateral veins [= secondary veins] ca. 9–11 on each side, terminating at the margin, fine venation parallel to primaries. Inflorescence: cut or broken tissue exuding whitish sap, peduncle 4.5–8.5 cm long; spathe 14–21.0 cm long, persistent, only slightly constricted, tube convolute, equal or longer than blade, green, blade becoming greenish cream; spadix 14.5–22 cm long, female zone 6–12 cm long, entirely adnate to spathe; sterile intermediate zone 1–2.8 cm long with lower half adnate to spathe, male zone 6–8.3 cm, free from spathe; flowers unisexual, lacking perigone, female flowers widely spaced, ovary 2-locular, staminodes 3–5 in whorl, each one 0.2–0.3 cm long, ovule 1 per locule, whitish, 0.1 cm long, male flower a polygonal, 4–6-sided synandrium with 4–5 anthers. Berry 0.6 × 0.4 cm, colour not recorded.

Description from Engler, A. (1915). Araceae-Philodendroideae-Anubiadeae, Aglaonemateae, Dieffenbachieae, Zantedeschieae, Typhonodoreae, Peltandreae. Das Pflanzenreich IV.23Dc (Heft 64): 61

Stem 10-15 cm tall. Petiole ca. 30 cm long, sheathed up to the middle, leaf blade oblong-lanceolate, narrowed almost equally at both ends, 37 cm long, 13 cm wide at middle, midvein 8 mm thick, primary lateral veins [= secondary veins] ca. 13 on each side, ascending arcuately at ca. 45° and 1.5-2 cm distant from each other. Spathe green, 30 cm long, lower part closed, ca. 18 cm long, upper part open, 12 cm long and 8 cm wide below. Spadix basally only just naked [= stipe very short] and 2 cm wide, female inflorescence 13 cm long, separated from male inflorescence by an interstice 3 cm long covered sparsely by sterile flowers, male inflorescence 7 cm long, 1.2 cm thick. Female flowers with depressed ovary surrounded by 3-4 claviform staminodes.

COMMENTS

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Aquatic, Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest, Central Brazilian Savanna, Atlantic Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Riverine Forest and/or Gallery Forest

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Tocantins)

Northeast (Ceará, Maranhão)

Central-west (Goiás, Mato Grosso)

South (Paraná)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

T.C. Plowman, 8387, INPA

J.A. Lombardi, 6516, RB

FIELD IMAGES / ILLUSTRATIONS



Figure 1: *Dieffenbachia aglaonematifolia* Engl.



Figure 2: *Dieffenbachia aglaonematifolia* Engl.

REFERENCE

Andrade, I.M., Mayo, S.J., Silva, M.F.S., Sousa, D.J.L., Matias, L.Q., Ribeiro, T.A. (2013). The Araceae in Ceará, Brazil: humid forest plants in a semi-arid region. *Rodriguésia* 64(3): 445-477.

Dieffenbachia bowmanni H.J. Veitch

Has as synonym

heterotypic *Dieffenbachia baumannii* Engl.

heterotypic *Dieffenbachia latimaculata* Linden & André

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching many branched; **habit** stem erect aerial/stem usually less than 1.0 height (m)/stem usually more than 1.0 height (m). **Leaf:** petiole length cm up to 23; petiole length / blade length less than half; petiole sheath length / petiole length character absent; petiole colour character absent; petiole texture character absent; leaf blade shape oblong/ovate; leaf blade length cm 20 to 40/less than 60; leaf blade width cm more than 10/less than 20; leaf blade length / width 1.7 to 2/2 to 3.5; leaf blade adaxial colour dark green with more pale or yellowish maculate; leaf blade base shape obtuse/emarginate; leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees less than 80. **Inflorescence:** inflorescence number per sympodium several; peduncle length cm usually less than 8/less than 30; spathe length cm usually more than 10; spathe length / peduncle length more than 1.0; spathe colour when mature pale green to green.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Engler, A. (1915). Araceae-Philodendroideae-Anubiadeae, Aglaonemateae, Dieffenbachieae, Zantedeschieae, Typhonodoreae, Peltandreae. Das Pflanzenreich IV.23Dc (Heft 64): 52

Robust herb branching at the base with shoots 1 m tall, 1.5-4 cm thick. Petiole barely half the length of the blade, sometimes 4-5 times shorter, sheathed below, above deeply canaliculate with acute margins, blade membranaceous, above opaque dark green apart from the paler spots/blotches, below glaucescent green, opaque, oblong-ovate, 30-40 cm long, 15-20 cm wide, obtuse or slightly emarginate at the base, shortly and acutely acuminate at the apex, midvein 2 mm thick proximally, primary lateral veins circ. 14-16 on each side, arising from the midvein at circ. 45° and ascending near the margin, distinctly prominent abaxially. Peduncles several with equally long cataphylls, 8-10 cm long. Spathe pale green, 15-18 cm long, convolute, slightly constricted at the middle, tube circ. 1.5 cm wide, upper part open, lanceolate, acuminate. Spadix not stipitate, female inflorescence 5-6 cm long, separated from the male by a slender zone sparsely covered with sterile flowers, male zone 5-6 cm long. Female flowers with ovary depressed, bilocular, crowned with a thick bilobed stigma, and surrounded by 4-5 claviform, 2 mm long staminodes. Sterile flowers with 3-5, short, obovate ± coherent staminodes. Male flower a yellowish synandrium 2.5 mm diam.

COMMENTS

Espécie pouco conhecida, registrada no Brasil por Engler (1915), baseada na coleta E. Ule 5725 do Rio Juruá-Mirim, no Acre.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Unknown

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Amazonas)

Possible occurrences

South (Paraná)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

E. Ule, 5725, B

REFERENCE

Engler, A. (1915). Das Pflanzenreich IV.23Dc (Heft 64): 52.

Dieffenbachia cannifolia Engl.

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching not or few branched; **habit** stem erect aerial/stem usually less than 1.0 height (m)/stem usually more than 1.0 height (m). **Leaf:** petiole length cm up to 23; petiole length / blade length 1 quarter; petiole sheath length / petiole length almost equal; petiole colour character absent; petiole texture smooth; leaf blade shape oblanceolate/obovate; leaf blade length cm 20 to 40/less than 60; leaf blade width cm more than 10/less than 20; leaf blade length / width 3 to 3.5; leaf blade adaxial colour character absent; leaf blade base shape gradual narrowly acute to the base/acute; leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees less than 80. **Inflorescence:** inflorescence number per sympodium several; peduncle length cm usually less than 8; spathe length cm usually more than 10; spathe length / peduncle length more than 1.0; spathe colour when mature character absent.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Engler, A. (1915). Araceae-Philodendroideae-Anubiadeae, Aglaonemateae, Dieffenbachieae, Zantedeschieae, Typhonodoreae, Peltandreae. Das Pflanzenreich IV.23Dc (Heft 64): 40.

Stem 0.5-2 m tall, with internodes up to 2 cm long. Petiole 4 times shorter than blade, sheathed up to the apex, blade elongate-lanceolate [oblanceolate in figure!!], 35-45 cm long, upper third 10-15 cm wide, cuneately narrowed from upper third towards the acute or slightly obtuse base, with the apex shortly and narrowly acute, midvein proximally 3 mm thick, strongly narrowing distally, primary lateral veins circ. 12 on each side, arising from midvein at circ. 45°, ascending arcuately with the more slender secondary veins prominent abaxially. Peduncles many, slender, 5-6 cm long. Spathe pale green, 13-15 cm long, convolute, lower part circ. 6 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, upper part open, oblong, 2.5 cm wide, cuspidate-acuminate. Spadix white with a 1 cm long stipe, female inflorescence 5 cm long, separated from the male by a sterile interstice 1.5 cm long, male inflorescence 4.5 cm long. Female flowers with ovary depressed, 2 mm diam., crowned with a slightly smaller discoid orbicular stigma, surrounded by 4-5 claviform staminodes 1-1.5 mm long. Sterile flowers with 4-5 obovate staminodes adnate to rudimentary ovary or connate into a synandrium. Male flowers a synandrium 1.5 mm in diam.

COMMENTS

Esta espécie foi descrita por Engler (1915) baseada na coleta E. Ule 6183 de Leticia, em Peru. Ele descreve as folhas como lanceoladas, mas a figura mostra folhas oblanceoladas (veja Free-text Description).

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Terra Firme Forest, Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Acre, Amazonas)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

T.B. Croat, 85533, MO

Dieffenbachia costata Klotzsch

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching not or few branched; **habit** stem erect aerial/stem usually more than 1.0 height (m). **Leaf:** **petiole length cm** usually more than 23; **petiole length / blade length** half or more; **petiole sheath length / petiole length** more than half; **petiole colour** character absent; **petiole texture** minute ribbed; **leaf blade shape** elliptic/ovate; **leaf blade length cm** 20 to 40/less than 60; **leaf blade width cm** more than 20; **leaf blade length / width** 1.3 to 1.4; **leaf blade adaxial colour** uniform green/deep green; **leaf blade base shape** acute/obtuse; **leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees** less than 80. **Inflorescence:** **inflorescence number per sympodium** 1/several; **peduncle length cm** usually less than 8; **spathe length cm** usually more than 10; **spathe length / peduncle length** more than 1.0; **spathe colour when mature** character absent.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Engler, A. (1915). Araceae-Philodendroideae-Anubiadeae, Aglaonemateae, Dieffenbachieae, Zantedeschieae, Typhonodoreae, Peltandreae. Das Pflanzenreich IV.23Dc (Heft 64): 44

Very robust plant, stem up to 1.3 m tall and 4-5 cm thick, internodes up to 4 cm long. Petiole a little shorter than blade, up to 25 cm long, somewhat terete, minutely many-ribbed, canaliculate adaxially with rather obtuse margins, narrowly sheathed to the middle or beyond, blade rigid, adaxially deep green, abaxially paler, light green, not shining, ovate or broadly elliptic, oblique, narrowed on both sides by an equally arcuate contour, 35-40 cm long, 25-30 cm wide, one side 1.5 times broader than the other, subacute at the base, acute and not acuminate at the apex, midvein 6.8 mm thick proximally becoming slender distally, primary lateral veins 9-12 on each side, 1.5-2 cm distant from one another, ascending arcuately and distinctly prominent. Peduncles only 5 cm long. Spathe very elongated 20-30 cm long, lower part 10-15 cm long, 1.5-2 cm wide, becoming 1-1.5 cm wide distally, upper part expanded, oblong-lanceolate, 2.5-3 cm wide, with a very acute 1.5 cm long acumen [apex]. Spadix not stipitate, subequalling the spathe, circ. 14-17 cm long, female inflorescence 6-8 cm long, male 5-6 cm long, separated from the female by an interstice 3-4 cm long, sparsely covered with sterile flowers. Female flowers with a shortly ovoid, unilocular ovary, whitish-green, crowned with an egg-yolk yellow discoid stigma and surrounded by 3-5 white clavate staminodes. Male flowers a synandrium circ. 3 mm diam. Sterile flowers composed of 3-5 shortly obovate staminodes surrounding the ovary rudiment or in distal flowers connate into a synandrium.

COMMENTS

A descrição de Engler (1915) parece ser baseada principalmente em material coletado por Weberbauer, em Peru, Depto. Loreto.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Riverine Forest and/or Gallery Forest, Terra Firme Forest

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Acre, Amazonas)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

W. Milliken, 1716a, INPA

Dieffenbachia duidae (Steud.)

G.S.Bunting

Has as synonym

heterotypic *Dieffenbachia boli* G.S.Bunting var. *na*

heterotypic *Dieffenbachia bolivarana* G.S.Bunting

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching not or few branched; **habit** stem erect aerial/stem usually less than 1.0 height (m). **Leaf:** **petiole length cm** up to 23; **petiole length / blade length** less than half/half or more; **petiole sheath length / petiole length** more than half; **petiole colour** character absent; **petiole texture** smooth; **leaf blade shape** oblanceolate/obovate; **leaf blade length cm** 20 to 40/less than 60; **leaf blade width cm** more than 10/less than 20; **leaf blade length / width** 2 to 3.5; **leaf blade adaxial colour** uniform green; **leaf blade base shape** acute; **leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees** more than 80. **Inflorescence:** **inflorescence number per sympodium** 4 or more; **peduncle length cm** 7.5 to 25; **spathe length cm** usually less than 10; **spathe length / peduncle length** 1.0 or less; **spathe colour when mature** pale green to green.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description by Bunting, G.S. ("1979", 1980). Sinopsis de las Araceae de Venezuela. Rev. Fac. Agronom. (Maracay) X (1-4): 139-290, under the name *Dieffenbachia bolivarana*.

The leaf blade of this taxon is narrowly obovate to obovate, acuminate at the apex and attenuate towards the acute base, reaching 38 cm long by 16 cm wide and has a median vein up to 9 mm wide; the lateral veins form an angle of approx. 80°-90° with the median vein and extend almost to the margin. The petiole, which measures up to 23 cm long, has narrow wings which extend almost to the petiole apex and are erose at their margins. Four or more peduncles are produced together, 10 cm long, with a spathe only 5-8 cm long.

COMMENTS

Conhecida também sob o nome *D. bolivarana*, hoje um sinónimo. Descrita inicialmente por George Bunting dos tepuis de Venezuela.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Amazonas)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

Madison, M.T., s.n., MO

REFERENCE

Phytologia 65(5): 390 (1988): 65(5): 390 (1988):

Dieffenbachia elegans A.M.E.Jonker & Jonker

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching not or few branched; **habit** stem erect aerial/stem usually less than 1.0 height (m)/stem usually more than 1.0 height (m). **Leaf:** **petiole length cm** up to 23/usually more than 23; **petiole length / blade length** less than half/half or more; **petiole sheath length / petiole length** more than half; **petiole colour** uniform green; **petiole texture** smooth; **leaf blade shape** oblanceolate/elliptic/oblong/ovate; **leaf blade length cm** circa 15/20 to 40/less than 60; **leaf blade width cm** less than 10; **leaf blade length / width** 3 to 3.5; **leaf blade adaxial colour** deep green/midrib more pale/variegated more pale; **leaf blade base shape** acute/obtuse; **leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees** less than 80. **Inflorescence:** **inflorescence number per sympodium** 1; **peduncle length cm** usually less than 8/less than 30; **spathe length cm** usually less than 10/usually more than 10; **spathe length / peduncle length** more than 1.0; **spathe colour when mature** orange to pale orange.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Jonker-Verhoef and Jonker (1968). Araceae. Pp. 389-390 in Pulle, A.A., Lanjouw, J. (eds.), Flora of Suriname Vol. 1, Part 2, Additions and Corrections. E.J. Brill, Leiden.

Erect herb containing a whitish latex, growing on decaying wood. Stem up to 15 cm long and up to 1 cm thick; internodes up to 1 cm long. Petiole long-vaginate, 7-12 cm long, including the tapering and truncate sheath; sheath 5-9 cm long and up to 1 cm wide. Leaf blade herbaceous, elliptical to oblanceolate, often oblique to falcate, apiculate and mucronulate at the apex, cuneate at the base, 14-39 cm long and 4-9 cm wide. Inflorescence solitary in the leaf axil. Peduncle 3.5-6 cm long. Spathe convolute, apiculate, yellowish green, turning orange, 10-13 cm long and up to 2 cm in diameter in the basal part, opening in the apical part only. Spadix sessile; female part adnate, circ. 3 cm long and 0.3 cm in diameter; sterile part free, almost naked, circ. 2.5 cm long and 0.3 cm in diameter; male part free, obclavate, circ. 2 cm long and 0.4 cm in diameter. Female flowers scattered along the basal part of the spadix; staminodes 4, thick-scalelike, obovate, obtuse, swollen towards the apex, about half as long as the ovary; ovary rhomboid, circ. 1 mm high and 1.5 mm in diameter, crowned by an elongate, saucer-shaped stigma. Synandria consisting of 6-7 stamens, circ. 1 mm high and 2-3 mm in diameter. Fruits globose, circ. 0.5 cm in diameter.

Description from Barabé, D., Gibernau, M. (2015). Aracees de Guyane française, p. 221.

Erect terrestrial plant 30-60 cm tall. Petiole with a long, narrow sheath (5-9 cm), reaching beyond the mid-point of the petiole, almost terete in its free part, pale green, 5-18 cm long. Leaf blade oblong-elliptical to oblong-ovate or oblanceolate, dark green marbled with pale green along the midvein, 13-30 cm long, 3.6-9 cm wide, primary lateral veins in 10-14 pairs. Inflorescence solitary. Peduncle 3-8 cm long. Spathe yellowish, 8-11 cm long. Spadix sessile, greenish or cream yellow, 7-9 cm long.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Terra Firme Forest, Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia)

Possible occurrences

South (Rio Grande do Sul)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

Drucker, D.P., 24, INPA

Dieffenbachia gracilis Huber

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching character absent; **habit** character absent. **Leaf:** petiole length cm up to 23; petiole length / blade length less than half/half or more; petiole sheath length / petiole length less than half; petiole colour character absent; petiole texture character absent; leaf blade shape obovate/oblong/lanceolate; leaf blade length cm circa 15; leaf blade width cm 3.5 to 4; leaf blade length / width 3.5 to 4.5; leaf blade adaxial colour character absent; leaf blade base shape acute; leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees character absent. **Inflorescence:** inflorescence number per sympodium character absent; peduncle length cm character absent; spathe length cm character absent; spathe length / peduncle length character absent; spathe colour when mature pale green to green.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Engler, A. (1915). Araceae-Philodendroideae-Anubiadeae, Aglaonemateae, Dieffenbachieae, Zantedeschieae, Typhonodoreae, Peltandreae. Das Pflanzenreich IV.23Dc (Heft 64): 59.

Slender upwards growing stem, densely covered by sheaths. Petiole circ. twice as short as the blade, 5-8 cm long, sheath 2-3 cm long with a rounded-auriculate apex, blade thin, oblong-lanceolate or obovate-oblong, acute at the base, apex rather long-falcate-acuminate, circ. 15 cm long, 3.5-4 cm wide, primary lateral veins circ. 10 on each side. Peduncle deflexed in fruit. Spathe pale green. Remainder unknown.

Note [by A. Engler]. This species is certainly has a strong affinity to the preceding one [*D. parvifolia*] and perhaps should be united with it. I could not find in the diagnosis of Huber any essential features which distinguish this species from the preceding one; nevertheless, I have not seen the plant and so I include it here as a [distinct] species.] my translation.

COMMENTS

Espécie somente parcialmente conhecida ainda. Veja nota por Engler na descrição Free-text.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Terra Firme Forest

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Rondônia)

Dieffenbachia humilis Poepp.

Has as synonym

heterotypic *Dieffenbachia alliodora* Regel

heterotypic *Dieffenbachia spruceana* Schott

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching not or few branched; **habit** stem erect aerial/stem usually less than 1.0 height (m). **Leaf: petiole length cm** usually more than 23; **petiole length / blade length** half or more; **petiole sheath length / petiole length** less than half; **petiole colour** white maculate/sometimes densely pale green maculate; **petiole texture** smooth; **leaf blade shape** elliptic/oblong/lanceolate; **leaf blade length cm** 20 to 40; **leaf blade width cm** 7 to 15; **leaf blade length / width** 2.5 to 3; **leaf blade adaxial colour** deep green/variegated more pale; **leaf blade base shape** acute; **leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees** less than 80. **Inflorescence: inflorescence number per sympodium** several; **peduncle length cm** 7.5 to 25/less than 30; **spathe length cm** usually more than 10; **spathe length / peduncle length** 1.0 or less/more than 1.0; **spathe colour when mature** pale green to green.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Engler, A. (1915). Araceae-Philodendroideae-Anubiadeae, Aglaonemateae, Dieffenbachieae, Zantedeschieae, Typhonodoreae, Peltandreae. Das Pflanzenreich IV.23Dc (Heft 64): 59.

Short stem barely 10 cm long. Petioles 25-30 cm long, sheathed hardly to the middle, variegated with green and white, leaf blade lanceolate-oblong, acute at the base, gradually narrowed towards the apex, long-acuminate, 20-25 cm long, 8-9 cm wide, primary lateral veins many on each side, ascending at an acute angle, with the secondaries prominent abaxially. Peduncle 7.5 cm long. Spathe 12-15 cm long, becoming green, barely cuspidate, acute. Female inflorescence of the spadix usually sessile circ. 6 cm long, male inflorescence equal in length or even a little longer, separated from the female by a sometimes shorter interstice covered rather densely with sterile flowers. Female flowers with ovary depressed, 1-2 locular, surrounded by 4-5 clavate staminodes 3 mm long and over 1 mm wide.

Description from Barabé, D., Gibernau, M. (2015). Aracees de Guyane française, p. 222

Erect terrestrial plant, 50-100 cm tall, internodes short, leaves more-or-less in a rosette. Petiole with sheath up to 0.4 of its length, almost terete in the free portion, violet-tinged brown, white-spotted, 38-48 cm long. Leaf blade lanceolate to oblong-elliptic, dark green, marbled with pale green, 25-40 cm long, 7-15 cm wide, primary lateral veins 14-17 pairs. Inflorescences 2 per sympodium. Peduncle pale green, 16-25 cm long. Spathe pale green, 9-12 cm long. Spadix 8-11 cm long.

Primary forest.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Terra Firme Forest, Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Acre, Amazonas, Amapá)

Northeast (Maranhão)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

C. Ferreira, 11107, NY

Dieffenbachia paludicola N.E.Br. ex Gleason

Has as synonym

heterotypic *Dieffenbachia longipistila* Croat

heterotypic *Maguirea spathicarpoides* A.D.Hawkes

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching not or few branched; **habit** acaulescent. **Leaf:** petiole length cm up to 23/usually more than 23; petiole length / blade length less than half; petiole sheath length / petiole length almost equal/less than half/more than half; petiole colour uniform green; petiole texture smooth; leaf blade shape oblanceolate; leaf blade length cm 50 to 100; leaf blade width cm more than 10/less than 20; leaf blade length / width 5 to 7; leaf blade adaxial colour deep green; leaf blade base shape gradual narrowly acute to the base; leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees less than 80. **Inflorescence:** inflorescence number per sympodium less than 4; peduncle length cm 30 to 50; spathe length cm usually more than 10; spathe length / peduncle length 1.0 or less; spathe colour when mature pale green to green.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Jonker-Verhoef and Jonker (1953). Araceae. Pp. 42-43 in Pulle, A.A., Lanjouw, J. (eds.), Flora of Suriname Vol. 1, Part 2. The Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam.

Erect herb. Stem subterranean, rather short, up to 12 cm long and 3 cm in diameter; internodes very short and marked by annular scars. Leaves forming an erect tuft and possessing an unpleasant-smelling acrid juice. Petiole sheath-like, fleshy, usually conduplicate, amplexicaul, up to 60 cm long and at the base 6 cm wide; the apical 1.5-15 cm long part often not or scarcely sheath-like. Blade oblanceolate, acute or shortly acuminate at the apex, cuneate at the base, fleshy, coriaceous when dry, dark green, 55-86 cm long and 9.5-16.5 cm wide; midrib stout, 1-1.5 cm wide at the base. Peduncle 30-70 cm long and up to 1 cm in diameter when dried, narrowed towards the base and the apex. Spathe elongate, oblanceolate, convolute, open only at the apex, acuminate, slightly hooded, 25-30 cm long and 4-6 cm wide, green on the outside and greenish-white within. Spadix stipitate, narrowly cylindrical, adnate to the spathe in the lower part, only the male part free; stipe 1-2 cm long; female part up to 13 cm long, sterile part 2-2.5 cm long and male part up to 12 cm long. Female flowers scattered along the female basal part of the spadix. Staminodes 3-5, sessile, conical, truncate, up to 1 mm high and up to 2.5 mm wide, white. Ovary depressed, 2- or 3-celled, up to 4 mm in diameter, green; stigma sessile, discoid, orange-coloured. Sterile part of spadix naked. Synandria closely packed, pale cream, consisting of 4-5 stamens and circ. 3 mm wide and 1.2 mm high.

Description from Barabé, D., Gibernau, M. (2015). Aracees de Guyane française, p. 222.

Terrestrial plant, often subaquatic, with the leaves in a rosette. Petiole green, flattened or almost terete in the upper part, 12-35 cm. Leaf blade narrowly oblanceolate, base very decurrent, dark green, 50-100 cm long, 9-20 cm wide, primary lateral veins in 9-12 pairs. Peduncle yellowish green, 35-50 cm long. Spathe pale green in the lower part, whitish in the upper part, 20-28 cm long. Spadix 15-25 cm long. Fruit orange.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Amazonas)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

Rodrigues, W.A., 1928, INPA

Dieffenbachia parvifolia Engl.

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching not or few branched; **habit** stem erect aerial/stem usually less than 1.0 height (m). **Leaf:** **petiole length cm** up to 23; **petiole length / blade length** 1 quarter/less than half; **petiole sheath length / petiole length** less than half/more than half; **petiole colour** uniform green; **petiole texture** smooth; **leaf blade shape** elliptic/lanceolate; **leaf blade length cm** circa 15/20 to 40; **leaf blade width cm** 3.5 to 4/7 to 15/less than 10; **leaf blade length / width** 3.5 to 4.5; **leaf blade adaxial colour** uniform green/deep green; **leaf blade base shape** acute/obtuse; **leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees** less than 80. **Inflorescence:** **inflorescence number per sympodium** several; **peduncle length cm** usually less than 8; **spathe length cm** usually less than 10; **spathe length / peduncle length** more than 1.0; **spathe colour when mature** pale green to green.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Engler, A. (1915). Araceae-Philodendroideae-Anubiadeae, Aglaonemateae, Dieffenbachieae, Zantedeschieae, Typhonodoreae, Peltandreae. Das Pflanzenreich IV.23Dc (Heft 64): 59.

Shoot erect, ca. 30 cm long, with internodes 2-3 cm long. Petiole 4 times shorter than blade, circ. 5 cm long, sheath extending above the middle of petiole, broadly clasping, 3 cm long and adaxially 1 cm wide, leaf blade lanceolate and strongly oblique, narrowing from the middle on both sides, subacute at the base, apex narrowing subfalcately into an acumen, circ. 20 cm long, 3.5-5 cm wide, primary lateral veins circ. 7 on each side, arising from the slender midvein at circ. 40°, ascending arcuately, slightly prominent abaxially. Peduncles several, 5-6 cm long. Spathe circ. 8-9 cm long, lower part 4 cm long, 1 cm wide, upper part lanceolate, circ. 5 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, long acuminate. Spadix not stipitate, female inflorescence circ. 4 cm long, separated from the male by an interstice that is naked proximally and distally covered by a few sterile flowers, male inflorescence circ. 3.5 cm long. Female flowers with ovary depressed, 2-locular, surrounded by 4 broadly cuneate, obtuse staminodes. Sterile flowers are 3-4-lobed synandroses. Synandria of the male flowers usually slightly 4-lobed. Berries subglobose, 1-2-seeded, ca. 5 mm diam.

Description from Barabé, D., Gibernau, M. (2015). Aracees de Guyane française, p. 224.

Terrestrial plant with erect stem, 30 cm tall. Petiole uniformly coloured, 5 cm long, sheathed for 3 cm. Leaf blade lanceolate, 20 cm long, 3-3.5 cm wide. Inflorescences many per sympodium. Peduncle 5-6 cm long. Spathe pale orange, 8-9 cm long. Spadix 7.5 cm long. Ovary 2-locular. Fruit dark orange.

Primary forests. Infrequent.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Is endemic from Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Terra Firme Forest

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Acre, Amazonas)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

T.B. Croat, 85895, RB

Dieffenbachia seguine (Jacq.) Schott

This treatment is composed of the following taxa: *Dieffenbachia seguine*, .

Has as synonym

heterotypic *Arum crudele* Salisb.
heterotypic *Arum regnium* Rodschied ex G.F.W. Meyer
heterotypic *Arum seguine* Jacq.
heterotypic *Arum seguinum* L.
heterotypic *Caladium maculatum* Lodd.
heterotypic *Caladium seguine* var. *maculatum* (Lodd.) Sims
heterotypic *Caladium seguine* (Jacq.) Vent.
heterotypic *Die f. enbachia seguine* Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia amoena* Bull.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia barraquiniana* Verschaff. & Lem.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia brasiliensis* H.J.Veitch
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia cognata* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia consobrina* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia conspurcata* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia decora* Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia gigantea* Verschaff.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia gollmeriana* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia grandis* Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia illustris* Voss
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia irrorata* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia jenmanii* Veitch ex Regel
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia lineata* K.Koch & C.D.Bouché
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia lingulata* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia liturata* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia maculata* (Lodd.) Sweet
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia magnifica* Linden & Rodigas
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia mirabilis* Verschaff. ex Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia neglecta* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia nobilis* Verschaff. ex Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia picta* var. *angustior* Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia picta* var. *barraquiniana* (Verschaff. & Lem.) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia picta* var. *latior* Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia picta* var. *typica* Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia picta* var. *weirii* (J.J.Veitch) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia picta* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia picturata* L.Linden & Rodigas
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia plumieri* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia poeppigii* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia robusta* K.Koch
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *decora* (Engl.) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *irrorata* (Schott) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *lineata* (K.Koch & C.D.Bouché) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *lingulata* (Schott) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *liturata* (Schott) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *minor* Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *nobilis* (Engl.) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *robusta* (K.Koch) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *ventenatiana* (Schott) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia seguine* var. *viridis* (Engl.) Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia variegata* Engl.
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia ventenatiana* Schott
heterotypic *Dieffenbachia verschaffeltii* Engl.

heterotypic *Dieffenbachia wallisii* Linden
 heterotypic *Seguinum maculatum* (Lodd.) Raf.
 heterotypic *Spathiphyllum pictum* W.Bull

DESCRIPTION

Stem: stem basal branching not or few branched; **habit** stem erect aerial/stem usually more than 1.0 height (m). **Leaf:** **petiole length cm** up to 23/usually more than 23; **petiole length / blade length** half or more; **petiole sheath length / petiole length** less than half/more than half; **petiole colour** uniform green/sometimes densely pale green maculate; **petiole texture** smooth; **leaf blade shape** oblanceolate/elliptic/oblong/ovate/lanceolate; **leaf blade length cm** 20 to 40/less than 60; **leaf blade width cm** more than 10/less than 20; **leaf blade length / width** 1.7 to 2; **leaf blade adaxial colour** uniform green/deep green/midrib more pale/variegated more pale/variegated very variable; **leaf blade base shape** acute/obtuse/rounded/emarginate/subcordate/cordate/asymmetric; **leaf blade secondary veins angle degrees** less than 80. **Inflorescence:** **inflorescence number per sympodium** 1/several/less than 4; **peduncle length cm** usually less than 8/7.5 to 25/less than 30; **spathe length cm** usually more than 10; **spathe length / peduncle length** more than 1.0; **spathe colour when mature** pale green to green.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Description from Croat, T.B. (2004). Revision of *Dieffenbachia* (Araceae) of Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 91: 668-772.

Herb, to 1.5 m tall; stems reclining at base then erect; *internodes* 1.7–5.3 1.5–4.0 cm, medium green and glossy soon becoming dark green, semiglossy to almost matte, smooth. LEAVES arching; *petioles* 10–34.5 cm long, averaging 29.7 cm long, medium green and weakly glossy, rarely white, sometimes densely pale green maculate, sheathed $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{4}{5}$ or more their length, free part of petiole 5–7 cm long, acutely sulcate; sheath 20–28 long, pale green and matte on inside, usually acute on one side, rounded on the other side, sometimes inequilaterally acute on both sides, curved inward along the margins but the sides not contacting, faintly striate throughout but especially noticeable toward the base, the basal portion of the sheath often persisting after much of the petiole falls free; *blades* ovate-lanceolate, 17–38.5 cm long, 10–20 cm wide (averaging 32.1 3 17.3 cm), 2.7–3.3 times longer than wide, 1.2–1.6 times longer than petioles, inequilateral, one side 1.5 cm broader, inequilaterally rounded at base or with one side acute the other rounded, subcoriaceous, semiglossy, medium-dark green, sometimes mottled with pale green or white, especially along midrib, moderately paler below; *midrib* flattened-convex and slightly paler, ca. 6 mm wide above, narrowly rounded and slightly paler below, sometimes darker green-maculate in lower half; *primary lateral veins* 13 to 15(19) per side, arising at 408–508 angle, quilted-sunken and concolorous above, concolorous and concave below; *interprimary veins* usually present and nearly as conspicuous as primary lateral veins; *minor veins* moderately indistinct, arising from the midrib and paralleling the primary lateral veins. INFLORESCENCES 1 to 4 per axil, usually solid green but sometimes pale greenish yellow maculate throughout (maculations sometimes appearing in irregular transverse rows on spathe); *peduncles* 2.5–14 cm long, 7–8 3 8–12 mm diam., medium green, weakly glossy, faintly dark green-striate; *spathe* 11–24 cm long, abruptly acuminate at apex, gradually constricted above tube, in the upper $\frac{1}{2}$, mediumdark green and semiglossy to matte outside, slightly paler and glossy within; spathe blade at anthesis stiffly erect then recurving near apex; spathe tube 7–10 cm long, 1.2–1.8 3 2.0–2.5 cm diam.; *spadix* 10–19 cm long; the naked portion at base 1.5–2.5 cm long; pistillate portion of spadix 4–8.5 cm long; pistils 20 to 25, closely aggregated except in upper 10–12 mm, with up to 3 of them in a loose spiral across the spadix but usually with 1 or 2 at any level on the spadix; ovary bicarpellate, markedly bilobate, rarely 3- or 4-locular (and 3- to 4-lobate, respectively), pale green, semiglossy, 3.2–3.6 3 2.1–2.4 mm; stigmas pale orange, doubled (one for each locule) but usually fused along the adjoining margins, 2.3–4.3 3 2.0–2.4 mm diam.; staminodia 4 per pistil, 2.8–3.1 mm long, 0.8–1.0 mm wide at apex, slightly thickened toward apex, flattened and free at base, the base equally as wide or up to twice as wide as the apex; fertile staminate portion of spadix 5–7.5 cm long, 5–15 mm diam., slightly broader midway, tapering slightly toward both ends, bluntly acute to rounded at apex, at anthesis protruding forward out of spathe and usually being trapped there by the closing spathe; staminate flowers 5 to 6(8?) per spiral, (1.6)2.2–3.5(4) mm diam., squarely rounded to rounded, sometimes broadest perpendicular to the axis, smoothly rounded at apex, sometimes with a transverse linear slit medially; anthers 5 to 6 per synandrium, shedding their pollen well below the rim of the synandrium; the mostly naked portion of spadix 2.0–4.0 cm long, 6–8 mm diam., medium green with 1 pistil in lower third and with 2 to 3 staminodes in upper $\frac{1}{2}$, sometimes with only a few staminodia scattered in upper $\frac{3}{4}$. *Berries* bright red or orange.

Description from Barabé, D., Gibernau, M. (2015). Aracees de Guyane française, p. 224.

Erect, terrestrial plant containing caustic latex. Petiole strongly canaliculate and winged in the lower half, green, 17–41 cm long, sheath rolling inwards [convolute]. Leaf blade ovate-elliptic to ovate, green, 26–53 cm long, 11–22 cm wide, primary lateral veins in 10–14 pairs. Juvenile leaves variegated with white along the midvein. Inflorescences up to 4 per sympodium. Peduncle 9–23 cm long. Spathe green, 13–22 cm long. Spadix 10–20 cm long. Fruits red orange. Primary and secondary forests, undergrowth.

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest, Caatinga, Central Brazilian Savanna, Atlantic Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Inundated Forest (Igapó), Terra Firme Forest, Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic DistributionConfirmed occurrences

North (Amazonas, Amapá, Pará, Rondônia)

Northeast (Ceará, Maranhão, Pernambuco)

Central-west (Mato Grosso do Sul)

Possible occurrences

Northeast (Bahia)

Central-west (Goiás)

Southeast (São Paulo)

South (Paraná)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

C.P. Bove, 615, RB