

A new record of *Anthurium sarukbanianum* (Araceae) to Chiapas, Mexico—with additional notes on vegetative morphology

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ABSTRACT

Anthurium sarukbanianum Croat & Haager is recorded for Chiapas, Mexico. It is most closely related to *A. halmoorei* from west central Mexico but is similar to *A. schlechtendalii*. It differs from the former principally in the shape of its spadix and the petiole cross-sectional shape. It differs from *A. schlechtendalii* by the shape of the spadix and spathe, by berry color and by the shape of the petiole and apex of blade. The record of *A. sarukbanianum* in Chiapas constitutes a considerable range extension from the only site previously known in the state of Guerrero in west central Mexico. Fruit color is reported for the *A. sarukbanianum* for the first time. The species produces yellow-orange berries similar to the yellow berries of *A. halmoorei*; another species in section *Pachyneurium* from western Mexico.

RESUMEN

Anthurium sarukbanianum Croat & Haager es registrada para Chiapas, México. Esta especie esta estrechamente relacionada con *A. halmoorei* y *A. schlechtendalii*, pero difiere del primero principalmente en la forma del espadice y el peciolo en sección transversal y del segundo en la forma del espadice, espata, el color de las bayas y la forma del peciolo y apice de la lamina. El registro de *A. sarukbanianum* en Chiapas constituye un rango consider-

able de distribución, previamente conocido solo del estado de Guerrero. El color del fruto de *A. sarukbanianum* es reportado por primera vez. Esta especie produce unas bayas amarillenta-anaranjada similar a las bayas amarillas de *A. halmoorei*, otra especie en la sección *Pachyneurium*.

INTRODUCTION

On January 23, 1998 during a floristic inventory of Triunfo Biosphere Reserve in the Pacific slopes of the Sierra Madre of Chiapas an unusual collection of *Anthurium* was made in the area (15°52'N, 93°07'W) (Figs. 1–5) which had prominently undulate leaf blades, a reddish spathe, clavate spadix and yellow-orange berries. This collection (*Pérez-Farrera 1606a* deposited at CHIP & MO) made by the junior author was found growing as an epiphyte in a *Ficus* tree in "Bosque Tropical Perennifólio" consisting of *Styrax argenteus*, *Ficus* sp., *Quercus skinneri*, *Piper auritum*, *Piper* sp., *Chamaedorea quezalteca* and *Chamaedorea graminifolia*.

The collection from Chiapas proved to be *A. sarukbanianum* Croat & Haager known previously only from the state of Guerrero in west Central Mexico (Croat, 1991). That species was collected for the first time by Jiri Haager in 1977 and was later determined to be a new species by Tom Croat during a visit to Prague (Croat, 1991). The original description contained

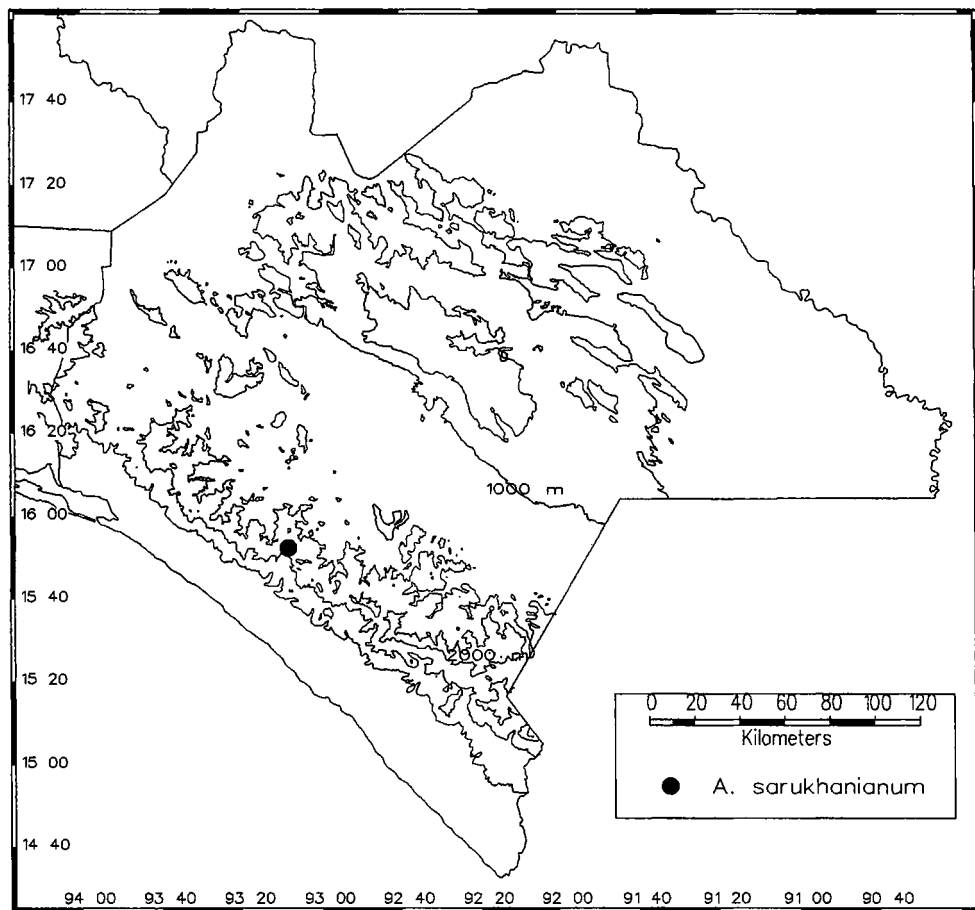


Fig. 1. Distribution map, Chiapas, Mexico.

no description of the berries since they had not yet been seen.

Anthurium sarukhanianum is closest to *A. balmoorei* from west central Mexico. It is also very similar to *A. schlechtendalii* Kunth which has a broad distributional range from SE Mexico to Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua (Croat, 1983).

The material of *A. sarukhanianum* from Chiapas is completely described in order to compare it with the type plant.

Anthurium sarukhanianum Croat & Haager, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 78: 719. 1991. Figs. 2–5.

Epiphytic; stem short; internodes to 3 cm diam., usually hidden by a dense

mass of greenish roots; roots 8–12 mm diam.; cataphylls thin, 4.8–6 cm long, acuminate, brownish when dry, sometime with exposed reticulate fibers; leaves 6–7, erect-spreading; petiole terete, 9.5–10 cm long, 8–10 mm diam., narrowly and acutely to obtusely sulcate; blades obovate to elliptic, 32–39 cm long, 8.5–12.5 cm wide, broadest at the middle, subcoriaceous, cuspidate at apex, acute to obtuse at base, strongly undulate along margins, dark green and semiglossy below; midrib almost flattened at base, becoming convex toward apex; primary lateral veins 5–6 pairs, arising at ca 50° angle; collective veins arising from the upper ¾ of blade, 5–10



Fig. 2. Whole plant showing growth habit.

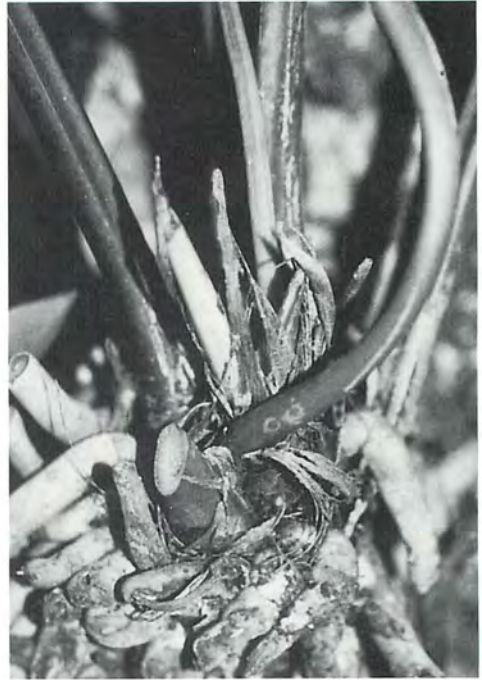


Fig. 3. Roots, stem and cataphylls with base of petioles.



Fig. 4. Inflorescence showing clavate spadix and reddish spathe.



Fig. 5. Inflorescence with yellowish orange berries.

mm from the margin. Inflorescence shorter than the leaves; peduncle 14–15 cm long, 4–6 mm diam., terete to weakly sulcate; spathe reddish to purple with yellowish punctations, 3–3.5 cm long, 1.5–3 cm wide, rounded to retuse at apex, inserted at a 70° angle on peduncle; spadix clavate, brownish, 3–7.5 cm long, 5–7 mm diam. at base, 8 mm diam at apex; flowers square, 1–1.5 mm diam. in both directions, the sides straight to weakly curved. Inflorescence arcuate with spathe green, persistent, to 8 cm long, 3.5 cm diam.; berries yellowish orange, globose to elliptic, 8–11 mm long, pericarp thin, mesocarp pulpy, yellowish; seeds 2–3, pale yellow, 6–7 mm long, 4–4.5 mm wide, elliptic to lanceolate.

Anthurium sarukbanianum is a member of section *Pachyneurium* and in Chiapas it is known from "Bosque Tropical Perennifolio" (Rzedowski, 1978) at an ele-

vational range of 800–1,000 m at the middle slope of the Pacific slope of the Sierra Madre of Chiapas in the Municipio de Pijijiapan.

The species is most closely related to *A. balmoorei* as is evidenced by the rare presence of yellowish berries on both species. *Anthurium balmoorei* differs in having a cylindrical-tapered spadix in contrast to a clavate spadix in *A. sarukbanianum*. *Anthurium schlechtendalii* is also apparently closely related to *A. sarukbanianum*. The latter species also occurs on the Pacific Coast in the Sierra Madre of Chiapas but differs in the shape of the blade apex, the shape of the petiole and the color of the spathe, spadix and fruits.

Specimens seen—MEXICO. Chiapas: Sierra Madre of Chiapas in the Municipio de Pijijiapan, Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, 15°52'N, 93°07'W, 800–1000 m, *Pérez-Farrera 1606a* (CHIP, MO). Guerrero: 2–3 km N of Zihuantanejo, near sea level, *Haager sn.* (MO, MEXU, PR).

CONCLUSIONS

Anthurium sarukbanianum is endemic to western Mexico but has proven to be more widespread than previously believed. Western Mexico has proven to contain a number of similar endemic taxa of Araceae including *Anthurium faustomirandae* Pérez-Farrera & Croat sp. nov. ined., *A. balmoorei* Croat, *A. nizandense* Matuda, *A. rzedowskii* Croat, *A. schlechtendalii* subsp. *jimenezii* (Matuda) Croat, *Philodendron basii* Matuda and *Philodendron dresslerii* Bunting. Currently most of these have rather narrow known range but the discovery of *A. sarukbanianum* so far from the only other known collection indicates that more extensive collecting in western Mexico may prove important for other such discoveries.

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