

Three new species of South American *Anthurium* (Araceae) — incidences of distant collaboration

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ABSTRACT

Anthurium boellii Croat from Valle del Cauca Department, Colombia, *A. boyi* Croat and *A. wellingae* Croat both from southern Ecuador, Zamora-Chinchipe Province are described as new.

Key words: new species, Colombia, Ecuador, *Anthurium*, sect. *Belolonchium*, sect. *Calomystrum*,

INTRODUCTION

Anthurium is the largest genus in the Araceae family with 950 published species and an estimated total of 3000 species (Boyce & Croat, 2011 onward). New species of Araceae are constantly being discovered but most owe their discovery to herbarium or field studies directly. In the course of work with horticultural enthusiasts throughout the world, I am constantly being asked to determine images of plants that someone somewhere in the world sends to me. In my regular duties, this is an almost daily occurrence but only infrequently does it actually result in the receipt of herbarium material which enables me to officially describe and publish the results of discovery. Most images obtained are interesting and many represent new species but they remain plants of little importance, either because they are of unknown origin or they are of known origin but represent plants for which there is little hope of obtaining herbarium specimens, an essential part of describing and publishing new species. Normally the pictures are saved, but with little hope that it will result in the production of needed herbarium specimens. This paper will describe three separate incidences which have enabled the discovery of new species. Hopefully, this will encourage more such collaboration.

In the first situation, I received a message from Peter Hoell who lives in Cali, Colombia. Peter sent me images of three *Anthurium* species he found in his backyard. At least two of the four plants proved to be new to science. Admittedly not a normal occurrence for the average home owner to find new species in their backyard but Peter lives adjacent to a watershed reserve just below the summit of the Cordillera Occidental, one of the richest areas for Araceae in all of the tropics. Working with the late Dr Philip Silverstone, then Curator of the Herbarium at the Universidad del Valle, the plant was collected, described and deposited in the local CUVC herbarium. I was able to visit Peter, stay at his house and make studies of the new species first hand. The new species is being named in his honor. It is a beautiful plant for which he can truly be proud. As an interesting aside, Peter spent 18 years living no more than 10 miles away from the Missouri Botanical Garden and worked at Meramec Community College in the Art

Department. After retirement, Peter moved to Cali where he has become an avid naturalist and has developed an interesting web site devoted to his pictures of natural history. This can be observed at: [colombianature \(smugmug.com\)](http://colombianature(smugmug.com)).

In the second situation, I received a message from Ladislav Holý, an aroid enthusiast in the Czech Republic city of Louny. Like others before him, he had purchased a cultivated plant from a plant dealer in Ecuador and wanted a determination. He sent me a series of images and later unmounted specimens which allowed me to determine that the species was undescribed.

The third situation, equally fortuitous, was through another email message with another set of pictures of an *Anthurium*. The email message from Simon Wellinga in Heerenveen, The Netherlands, immediately caught my interest because Simon actually had the plant in cultivation and was willing to provide herbarium material. Simon had purchased the plant from a tropical plant nursery in Ecuador under the name *Anthurium flavolineatum* Sodiro and fortunately was able to find out where it came from so this plant was worth pursuing. Simon was not just any aroid enthusiast but actually a well-trained botanist and a graduate of the University of Amsterdam in The Netherlands. He had spent time in Borneo doing fieldwork and was enthusiastic about pursuing a career in botany. Although the inability to find work in botany owing to the lack of jobs in this field had directed his attention into the health care industry, Simon still had a strong love of plants and an interest in taxonomy so he accumulated interesting tropical plants including the one he showed me. After I told Simon that his plant was new, he set about making specimens and taking measurements and properly photographing the new species. It is being named in his honor. It is a member of *Anthurium* section *Belolonchium* but a strange one for the section in many respects (see comments below).

It is hoped that this publication will encourage similar collaboration with other growers of plants and especially to encourage those cultivating plants to get the original collecting details for their specimens because without that information most plants cannot credibly be described and published. It should be pointed out that plants resulting from hybridization or other breeding studies are not good candidates for describing as new.

New species confirmation was made using the author's 50-year experience with work in Central America and confirmation was affirmed with the Lucid Anthurium Key which contains a detailed database on all new species in the genus, at present over 1660 species. Descriptions in this paper were made according to standards established by Croat & Bunting (1979). Ecological parameters were based on the Holdridge Life Zone System (Holdridge, 1979). Conservation status was based on Redbook values (IUCN-2021)].

THE NEW SPECIES

1. *Anthurium boellii* Croat, **sp. nov.** — Type: COLOMBIA. Valle del Cauca: Cordillera Occidental, eastern slope of divide, vic. of Dapa, Parcelación Hacienda Los Morales, 2.91 km from Parroquia San Francisco de Asis (Iglesia de Dapa), 03°34'43"N, 76°34'21"W, 2131 m, 17 June 2014, T.B. Croat & P. Hoell 105472 (holotype, CUVC-55398-99; isotypes, B, COL, K, MO-6673970-71, NY, US).

Diagnosis: *Anthurium boellii* is a member of sect. *Calomystrium* and is recognized by its appressed-climbing epiphytic habit, short thick internodes, intact cataphylls, essentially terete, weakly sulcate petioles, narrowly ovate-sagittate, weakly acuminate, deeply lobed gray-brown-drying leaves which are short pale-lineate on both surfaces and weakly dark-punctate on lower surface with a weakly hippocrepiform sinus, 5(6) pairs of basal veins, 1st & 2nd (sometimes 3rd pair) free to the base, a mostly naked, curved posterior rib, 8–10 primary lateral veins per side, collective veins arising from the 4th–6th pair of basal veins 3–4 mm from margin, as well as by the long-pedunculate inflorescence with a spreading-recurled, whitish spathe, and pinkish red, long-tapered spadix.

Appressed-climbing epiphyte at 1.5 m; internodes short, 4.0 cm diam.; cataphylls 6.5–12.0 cm long, persisting intact, turning gray-brown; *Leaves* erect to erect-spreading; petioles 73–109 cm long, 2.0 cm diam. at base, 1.0–1.2 cm diam. midway, 0.7–1.0 cm diam. at apex below geniculum, medium green, semiglossy; geniculum (1.5)2.0–5.0 cm long, 0.9–1.3 cm diam., (drying 5.0–7.0 mm diam.), terete midway, weakly sulcate near apex, drying slightly darker; blades narrowly ovate-sagittate, weakly acuminate at apex, deeply lobed at base, 55–68 cm long, 32–49 cm wide (averaging 60.4 cm long, 38.8 cm wide), 1.3–1.8 (average 1.6) times longer than wide, held at ca. 180° angle to petiole, dark green and semiglossy drying medium gray-brown and matte above, paler and glossy drying medium yellow-brown and weakly glossy below; upper surface sparsely and weakly short pale-lineate, lower surface densely granular on magnification, sparsely short pale-lineate, sparsely and weakly dark-punctate; anterior lobe 40–51 cm long, broadly rounded to almost straight along the margin; posterior lobes 19.0–22.5 cm long, (6.5)10.0–14.7 cm wide; sinus weakly hippocrepiform, 14–17 cm deep, (6.5)9.0–11.0 cm wide in live condition with lobes held somewhat upward, 13.5–19.0 cm long, 10.0–14.5 cm wide with blades flattened; basal veins 5(6) pairs, 1st & 2nd (sometimes 3rd pair) free to the base, 3rd pair fused 1.2 cm, 4th pair fused 3.6 cm, 5th & 6th pairs fused ca. 6 cm; posterior rib curved ca. 6.0 cm long, naked along most or all of its length; midrib narrowly rounded and slightly paler above, narrowly rounded and paler below; primary lateral veins 8–10 per side, departing midrib at ca. 40°, narrowly rounded and slightly paler near midrib, obtusely sunken toward apex above, narrowly rounded and paler below; tertiary veins drying weakly prominulous below; collective veins arising from the 4th–6th pair of basal veins, 3.0–4.0 mm from margin. *Inflorescence* erect; peduncle to 36 cm long, 8–10 mm diam., drying 6–8 mm diam.; spathe spreading-recurled, whitish and matte inside, greenish white and glossy outside, oblong-lanceolate, (19.0)27.0–30.5 cm long, 3.5–4.5 cm wide, drying 2.7–3.0 cm wide, drying reddish yellow-brown, matte; spadix pinkish red, long-tapered, (14)20–30(43) cm long, 1.4–1.6 cm diam. at base, 1.4–1.7 cm diam. midway, 6.0 mm diam. at 1.0 cm from tip, drying 8–13 mm diam. near base; flowers 13–14 visible per principal spiral, 1.3–1.5 mm long and wide; tepals smooth, sparsely pale-speckled, 0.8–1.0 mm wide, inner margin narrowly rounded, outer margin 2- or 3-sided; stamens not seen emerged; anthers 0.4 mm long, 0.4 mm wide; thecae slightly divaricate; *Infructescence* spreading-pendent; spathe medium green; spadix brownish, to 43 cm long, 2.5 cm diam. at base, 1.0 cm at 1.0 cm from tip; berries immature.

Distribution and ecology — *Anthurium boellii* is endemic to Colombia, known only from Valle del Cauca Department on both slopes of the Cordillera Occidentale at 2000–2130 m elevation in a *Lower montane rain forest* life zone.



Figure 1. Peter Hoell, American naturalist living in Colombia.

Etymology — The species is named in honor of American naturalist, Peter Hoell, who discovered it and brought it to my attention. Peter, an artist by profession, lived most of his career near the Missouri Botanical Garden and was a member of the famed Webster Groves Nature Society that did so much to explore and discover the Flora of Missouri. After retirement, Peter moved to Colombia where he lives at the type locality of the species which now bears his name.

Comments — The species may be closest to *Anthurium silverstonei* Croat & Oberle, described from Cerro Torrá in Chocó Department near the border with Valle del Cauca Department.



Figure 2. *Anthurium boellii* Croat. Habit of flowering plant in nature near home of Peter Hoell.

That species differs by having leaf blades that dry gray-brown, has 7 or 8 pairs of basal veins, 10–15 primary lateral veins per side, a spathe which is greenish adaxially and a much larger spadix (38.0 cm x 2.2 cm). *Anthurium boellii* is also similar to *A. sanguineum* Engl. which occurs in the area but that species differs by having a red spathe and a bright green spadix.

In the Lucid Anthurium Key the species tracks to *Anthurium obtusilobum* Schott, which differs by having a more cylindroid and cream to pale yellow-green spathe at anthesis; to *A. riparium* Engl., which differs by having only a short posterior rib and only a single pair of basal veins free to the base; to *A. subtriangulare* Engl., which differs by its much smaller leaf blades (less than 25 cm long) with an arcuate sinus and a cylindroid spadix; to *A. subulatum* N.E. Br., which differs by its more prominently acuminate blades, more widely spaced primary lateral veins, more narrowly ovate-subulate spathe and more cylindroid purple-red spadix.

The species is present in moderately large numbers in the type locality, part of a natural reserve and protected from deforestation, so the IUCN Redbook status of the species is LC (Least Concern).



Figure 3. *Anthurium hoellii* Croat. Stem with cataphylls and bases of petioles.

Paratypes — COLOMBIA. **Valle del Cauca:** Mun.: Yumbo, Dapa, Parcelación Los Morales, Casa 8, Cordillera Occidental, vertiente oriental, 2100 m, 19 Nov 2014, *P. Hoell 3* (CUVC); La Cumbre, Corregimiento de Bitaco, Vda. Chicoral, 03°34'13"N, 76°35'11"W, 2093 m, 22 July 2003, *H. Mendoza, F. Quevedor, M.V. Ruiz, C.A. Loaiza & A. Robles 14865* (FMB, MO).



Figure 4. *Anthurium hoelii* Croat. Leaf blade adaxial surface.



Figure 5. *Anthurium hoelii* Croat. Inflorescence with spathe and spadix.

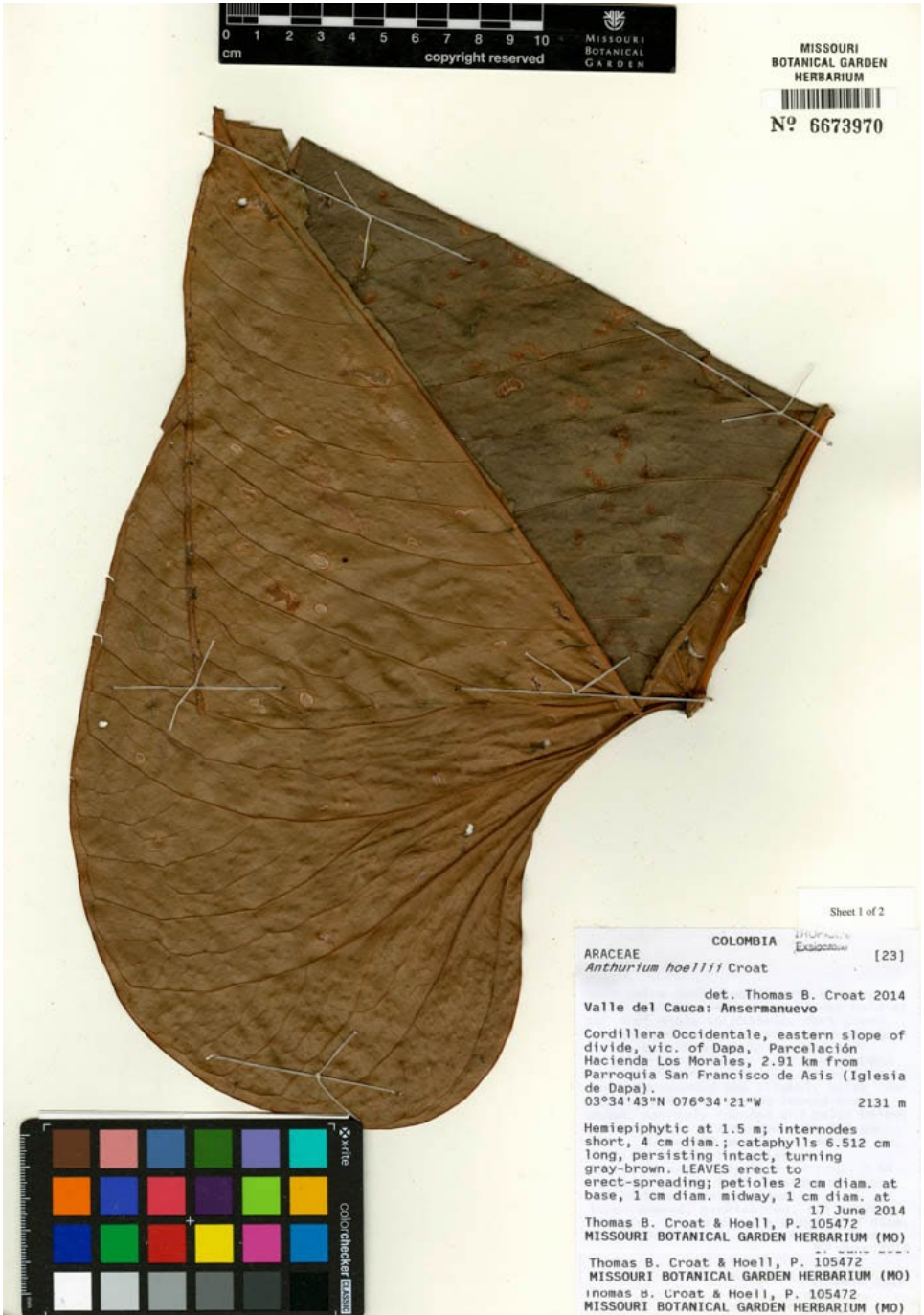


Figure 6. *Anthurium hoellii* Croat. Type specimen: leaf blade adaxial surface in middle; T.B. Croat & P. Hoell 105472 (isotype, MO-66739790)



Figure 7. *Anthurium hoellii* Croat. Type specimen: petiole and inflorescence; *T.B. Croat & P. Hoell 105472* (isotype, MO-66739791)

2. *Anthurium bolyi* Croat, **sp. nov.** — Type: Cultivated by Ladislav Holý, Louny, Czech Republic. Origin: ECUADOR. Zamora-Chinchi: Vicinity of El Pangui, in hills west of town, 1000 m; vouchered 8 May 2013, *T.B. Croat & Ladislav Holý 100584* (holotype, MO-6473249; isotypes, to be distributed).

Diagnosis: The species is a member of Section *Belolonchium* and is characterized by its elongated stems, short internodes, mostly intact cataphylls, subterete, deeply and narrowly sulcate petioles, ovate-sagittate, narrowly long-acuminate blades drying medium brown above, greenish below, with a parabolic to hippocrepiform sinus, posterior lobes directed toward the base, 4 or 5 pairs of basal veins, 1st pair free to the base, a weakly curved, naked posterior rib, 4 or 5 primary lateral veins per side, collective veins arising from the 1st pair of basal veins, 2–4 mm from margins, a long-pedunculate inflorescence with a pale green, erect spathe and a narrowly cylindroid-tapered, dark violet-purple spadix with prominently exerted stamens and white globose berries.

Habit unknown; stem to ca. 30 cm long; internodes moderately short, to 1.5 cm diam.; cataphylls 3.5–4.0 cm long, persisting intact at upper nodes, eventually becoming reddish brown fibers; *Leaves* with petioles 28.0–36.5 cm long, 3 mm diam., subterete, deeply and narrowly sulcate toward middle, sharply and narrowly flattened toward base, medium green, tinged with violet-purple, semiglossy; geniculum 2–3 cm long, 3–5 mm diam., darker than the petiole; blades ovate-sagittate, 21–24 cm long, 15.0–17.2 cm wide, 1.2–1.6 times longer than wide, 0.6–0.7 times as long as petiole, subcoriaceous, semiglossy, slightly bicolorous, narrowly long-acuminate at apex (acumen 2–3 cm long), prominently lobed at base, medium brown and semiglossy above, greenish and semiglossy below; anterior lobe 18.5–36.5 cm long, broadly convex to weakly concave; posterior lobes 7.3–8.3 cm long, 5–7 cm wide, directed mostly toward the base at 100°–120°; sinus parabolic to hippocrepiform, 3.5–4.5 cm deep, 3.5–5.5 cm wide; basal veins 4 or 5 pairs, 1st pair free to the base, 2nd pair fused 5–10 mm, 3rd pair fused 1.5–1.7 cm long; 4th and 5th pair fused 2.0–2.5 cm; posterior ribs weakly curved, naked for 2 cm; midrib narrowly rounded and slightly paler above, thicker, paler and narrowly rounded to bluntly acute below; primary lateral veins 4 or 5 per side, departing midrib at 40–50°, weakly quilted-sunken and concolorous above, narrowly rounded and slightly paler below; collective veins arising from the 1st pair of basal veins, 2–4 mm from margins; both surfaces moderately smooth. *Inflorescence* erect to erect-spreading; peduncle 29–31 long, 2–3 mm diam.; spathe pale green, erect, 7.0–7.5 cm long, 2.0–2.9(4.5) cm wide, narrowly and gradually long-acuminate, drying dark brown; spadix stipitate for 1.5–2.5 mm, narrowly cylindroid-tapered, dark violet-purple, 4.8–5.2 cm long, 4.5–7.0 mm diam., to 6 mm diam. midway, to 4 mm diam. at 1 cm from tip, rounded at apex; stipe 1.5 mm diam. on drying; flowers 6(7) visible per spiral, 3.0–3.2 mm long, 2.8–3.0 mm wide, drying 2 mm long, 4.5 mm wide; tepals weakly pale-granular; lateral tepals 1.4–2.2 mm wide, drying 1 mm wide, inner margin broadly rounded, outer margin 2-sided to obtusely 3-sided and nearly shield-shaped; stamens prominently exerted 2.0–2.2 mm; filament grayish white, translucent, 5 or more times wider than the width of the anthers; anthers positioned flat across the end of the filament with the pollen directed upward, narrowly ovate, 0.25 mm long, 0.20 mm wide; thecae more or less parallel; pistils early emergent; berries subglobose, white, 4 mm long, 3.5 mm diam., weakly beaked at apex.



Figure 8. Ladislav Holý, Czech aroider from Louny, Czech Republic.



Figure 9. *Anthurium hohyi* Croat. Habit of potted plant.



Figure 10. *Anthurium holyi* Croat. Stem with cataphylls, root and bases of petioles

Distribution and ecology — *Anthurium holyi* is endemic to Ecuador, found only in the locality from which the type was derived in Zamora-Chinchipe Province at 1000 m in a *Premontane wet forest* life zone.

Etymology — The species is named in honor of Ladislav Holý from the Czech Republic. He has long been a devotee of aroids and collaborates regularly with Jiří Haager, then Director of the Teplíce Botanical Garden where most of his collections now reside.



Figure 11. *Anthurium holyi* Croat. Potted plant with several leaves, all adaxial surface.

Comments — In the Lucid Anthurium Key the species tracks to *Anthurium cupulispathum* Croat & J.Rodrig. which differs in occurring on the western slopes of the Andes, having much larger blades, more primary lateral veins, a larger, broadly elliptic spathe, and a more ellipsoid spadix; to *A. macbridei* K.Krause, from Peru at more than 2100 m which differs by having



Figure 12. *Anthurium holyi* Croat. Leaf blade adaxial surface.



Figure 13. *Anthurium hollyi* Croat. Inflorescence at pistillate anthesis.



Figure 14. *Anthurium holyi* Croat. Inflorescence at staminate anthesis with exerted stamens.



Figure 15. *Anthurium hohyi* Croat. Inflorescence with berries greenish and nearing maturity.



Figure 16. *Anthurium hohyi* Croat. Inflorescence with mature white berries.

petioles to 1.5 m long, spathes 15–20 cm long, a spadix 20–30 cm long and stipitate to 1.5 cm; to *A. oxybelium* Schott a mostly high elevation species rarely occurring lower than 2400 m, which differs by having cataphylls 8–13 cm long, petioles subterete and sharply sulcate (versus deeply and narrowly sulcate for *A. hohyi*), leaf blades 2.3–4.0 times longer than wide (versus 1.2–1.6), collective veins usually arising from the 3rd pair of basal veins; to *A. rigidifolium* Engl. which differs by occurring mostly on the western slopes of Ecuadorian Andes at 1900–3200 m and being much larger plants with petiole 36–67 cm long, blades 30–60 cm long, 9 pairs of basal veins, 0–12 primary lateral veins per side; and *A. schunkei* Macbride from Peru, which differs by having the anterior lobe prominently constricted toward its base.

The species is present in cultivation in many areas throughout the world. It is known presumably from only one collection in the wild (that made originally by Ecuagenera, Inc.) so the IUCN Redbook status of the species is DD (Data Deficient).

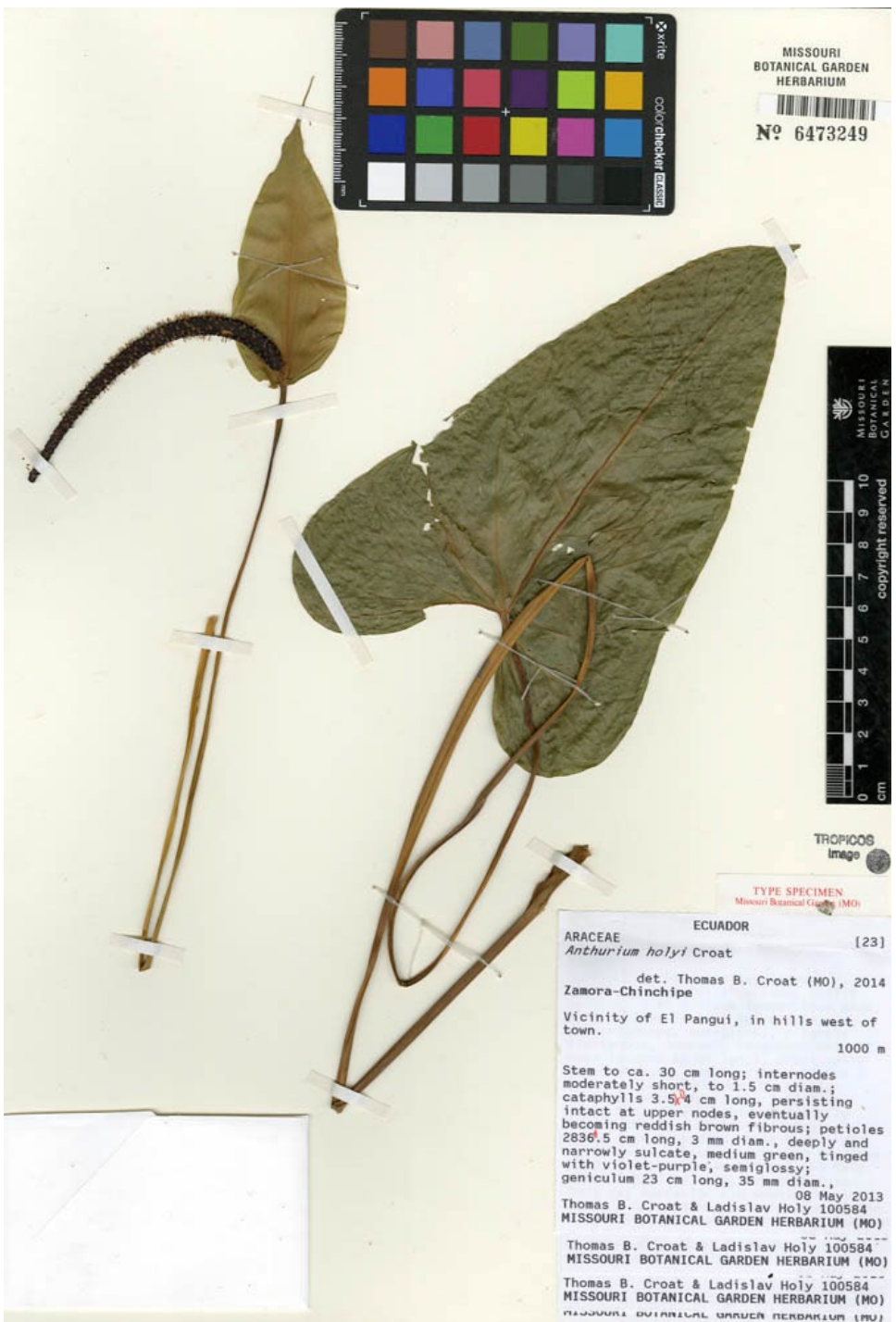


Figure 17. *Anthurium holyi* Croat. Type specimen, T.B. Croat & L. Holý 100584 (holotype, MO-6473249).

3. *Anthurium wellingae* Croat, **sp. nov.** — Type: Cultivated by Simon M. Wellinga, Heerenveen, The Netherlands. Origin: ECUADOR. Zamora-Chinchipe: vicinity of El Pangui, in hills west of El Pangui, ca. 03°36'S, 78°38'W, ca. 2000 m; vouchered 22 Dec 2017, *T.B. Croat & S.M. Wellinga 107766* (holotype, MO- 6904255; isotypes, AAU, COL, K, NY, QCNE, S, U, US).

Diagnosis: *Anthurium wellingae* is characterized by its short slender internodes, nearly intact reddish brown cataphylls, subterete weakly sulcate petioles, narrowly triangular-sagittate, narrowly acuminate light brown-drying blades, parabolic sinus, 3 or 4 pairs of basal veins with the 1st pair free to base, short nearly naked posterior ribs, (9)11–13 primary lateral veins per side, collective veins arising usually from the upper pairs of basal veins and 1–2 mm from margin, a short pale-lineate upper blade surface, long-pedunculate inflorescence, green hooding spathe and weakly stipitate, pale yellowish green, down-turned spadix with exerted stamens.

Terrestrial or epiphytic; stems to 70 cm long; internodes 1.5 cm long, 5.1–7.4 mm diam.; cataphylls 5.1–7.4 cm long, persisting intact but splitting near middle in lower half as plant expands, reddish brown; *Leaves* with petioles 47.0–63.5 cm long, 1.3–2.4 times longer than blades, subterete, shallowly and obtusely sulcate throughout, medium green, semiglossy; sheath 3.9–6.0 cm long; geniculum 1.9–3.4 cm long, 3.5–4.5 mm diam., dark brown, reddish where it joins petiole and at the opposite end of the petiolar plexus, obtusely and narrowly sulcate; blades narrowly triangular-sagittate, 23.0–36.5 cm long, (9.5)10.8–13.5 cm wide, 2.1–3.1 times longer than wide, 0.40–0.75 times as long as petioles, narrowly acuminate at apex, prominently lobed at base, subcoriaceous, medium dark green and matte above, slightly paler and weakly glossy below, drying light brown on both surfaces; anterior lobe 16.7–37.0 cm long (averaging 23.3 cm long), straight to weakly concave, (sometimes convex, especially on young leaves) along margins; posterior lobes (2.5)4.0–6.0 cm long, 3.5–3.7 cm wide; basal veins 3 or 4 pairs, 1st pair free to base; 2nd pair fused 3–10 mm; 3rd and 4th pairs fused 8–15 mm; sinus parabolic or hippocrepiform, sometimes slightly decurrent onto petiole, 2.0–3.3 cm deep, 2.5–3.0 cm wide; posterior ribs 1.0–1.5 cm long, naked not at all or up to 1 cm; midrib drying bluntly acute and reddish brown above, round-raised, finely ridged, red-brown and darker below; primary lateral veins (9)11–13 per side, departing midrib at 60–70°, weakly quilted adaxially, more conspicuously sunken than collective veins, weakly loop-connecting collective vein; collective veins arising usually from the 1st pair of basal veins, sometimes 2nd pair, rarely from 3rd pair, 1–2 mm from margin; upper surface drying smooth on magnification, sparsely very short pale-lineate; lower surface densely and irregularly, moderately dark brown-speckled. *Inflorescence* erect; peduncle 24.0–50.5 cm long, drying 3 mm diam., erect-spreading, medium green, drying yellowish brown; spathe green, hooding spadix, 8.0–11.5 cm long, 2.7–4.0 cm wide, narrowly ovate; spadix weakly stipitate (stipe to 3 mm long), 8.0–9.5 cm long, 6–7 mm diam., pale yellowish green, semiglossy, directed downward, curved back toward peduncle; flowers 8–10 visible per spiral, 2.0 mm long, 1.8 mm wide; tepals sparsely pustular; lateral tepals 0.8 mm wide, inner margin rounded, outer margin 2- or 3-sided, producing a scent of burnt metal during anthesis; stamens exerted ca. 2 mm; anther 0.6 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, white, persisting exerted; berries not seen.

Distribution and ecology — *Anthurium wellingae* is endemic to Ecuador, known only from Zamora-Chinchipe Province at 2000 m in a *Premontane wet forest* life zone.



Figure 18. Simon Wellinga in his greenhouse pollinating *Bulbophyllum ecinolabium*. Netherlands



Figure 19. *Anthurium wellingae* Croat. Habit of cultivated plant.



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Figure 20. *Anthurium wellingae* Croat. Stem with cataphylls and bases of petioles.



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Figure 21. *Anthurium wellingae* Croat. Leaf with adaxial surface



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Figure 22. *Anthurium wellingae* Croat. Leaf with inflorescence.

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Figure 23. *Anthurium wellingae* Croat, Inflorescence showing side view of pendent spathe and spadix.



Figure 24. *Anthurium wellingae* Croat. Adaxial surface of spathe.



Figure 25. *Anthurium wellingae* Croat. Interior surface of spathe with spadix bearing protruded stamens.

Etymology — The species epithet honors Dutch botanist, Simon M. Wellinga who studied biology at the University of Amsterdam with an emphasis on tropical ecology, evolutionary biology and pollination biology. Simon originally acquired the type plant from Ecuagenera (advertised erroneously as *A. flavolineatum* Sodiro) and later prepared specimen from his living plants. Simon retains his strong interests in plants and will continue to work in the process of discovery with his easy access to the many Dutch scientific collections in his native Netherlands.



Figure 26. *Anthurium wellingae* Croat. Type specimen; *T.B. Croat & S.M. Wellinga 107766* (holotype, MO- 6904255).

Comments — The species is related to *Anthurium variegatum* Sodiro, a species that also occurs in the Amazon region, owing to its somewhat slender, somewhat elongated internodes and its blade shape but that species differs by having a purple spathe with prominent green veins. The species has also been confused with *Anthurium flavolineatum* Sodiro, which differs by having blades with narrower, more broadly spreading posterior lobes and a purplish violet spathe with prominent green stripes.

Anthurium wellingae is an unusual member of sect. *Belolonchium* in that that section typically has cataphylls that persist as fibers and typically has no pale lineations on the leaf surfaces. Moreover, the pale brown speckling on the lower surface and the persistent intact cataphylls are more typical of sect. *Calomystrium* than *Belolonchium*. However, the pendent spadix and hooding spathe and even the blade shape and exerted stamens are typical of sect. *Belolonchium*.

So far as is known the species was collected only once (by Ecuagenera) but has been rather widely distributed by that company following propagation. Its IUCN Redbook status is DD (Data Deficient) owing to our ignorance of its abundance in the wild.

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