

A New Species of Ornamental *Philodendron* (Araceae)

Thomas B. Croat^{1,2}

P. A. Schulze Curator of Botany
Missouri Botanical Garden

Abstract — A species of philodendron already in cultivation is described. Native to Costa Rica it has been in cultivation in South Florida for at least a decade and has mistakenly been called *P. talamancae*.

Philodendron davidsonii Croat, sp. nov.

TYPE: Costa Rica: Limon: North of Siquirres, Croat 52332 (holotype: MO 3000000-001; isotypes K, US); Live plant at MO.

Planta epiphytica, scandens; internodiis brevibus, 3-5 cm diameter; cataphylla virida, bicostata, decidua; petioli sulcati argute, 52-70 cm longi; laminae triangularo-ovatae, nervis primariis lateralibus 12-20. Inflorescentiae 1-3; pedunculi 4-8 cm longi; spatha viridis, 22-29 cm longa, versa medium constricta vix; spadix pistilla-

ta ad 6.5 cm longa; spadix staminatus ad 12 cm longa.

Epiphytic creeper, juvenile plants with the blades reddish beneath; the adult stems 3-5 cm diameter, soon turning light brown, matte, smooth, the old leaf scars dark brown, scurfy; cataphylls light green to reddish, soft, faintly 2-ribbed, promptly deciduous, 30-48 cm long.

Leaves semierect to broadly spreading; petioles 52-70 cm long, .7-1.1 cm diameter, sharply sulcate adaxially, thicker than broad, to 1.5 cm thick midway, medium green, firm; the sulcus concave near apex,

Mo. Bot. Gardens

T. Croat



Fig. 1. *Philodendron davidsonii*, Croat 52232



Fig. 2. *Philodendron davidsonii*, Orchid Jungle.



Fig. 3. *Philodendron davidsonii*, Croat 52232

V-shaped toward the middle; blades narrowly triangular to triangular-ovate, thinly coriaceous, gradually acuminate at apex, subcordate at the base, 44-72 cm long, 18-30 cm wide, broadest at point of petiole attachment or at least in the lower 1/3 of the blade, the margin broadly undulate, pale green; the sinus arcuate, the posterior lobes rounded, turned somewhat upward; upper surface dark green, semiglossy, the midrib flat, much paler; primary lateral veins 12-22, departing the midrib at a 35-60 degree angle, weakly sunken, more or less straight to the margins; interprimary veins present, weakly etched; lower surface much paler; primary veins raised, interprimary veins obscurely visible, somewhat interrupted.

Inflorescences 1-3 per axil, erect at anthesis; peduncle 4-8 cm long, stiff, pale green, somewhat flattened laterally; spathe moderately thick, green, the margin tinged with purple, scarcely constricted above the tube, the tube reddish within, 22-31 cm long, to 3.5 cm diameter, acuminate at the apex; the pistillate spadix 6.5 cm long in front, 4 cm long in back, 2 cm diameter; pistils 4-5 mm long, weakly 10 ridged along the sides; stigmas 2 mm diameter, deeply scalloped along the margins; staminate spadix to 12 cm long, weakly constricted at the lower 1/3, 2.3 cm diameter at the base, 1.8 cm diameter midway, narrowed to a blunt tip; flowers creamy-white, 2.3

mm long, irregularly 4-6 sided, mostly 1 mm diameter. Figures 1-3.

Philodendron davidsonii is endemic to the Atlantic coastal lowlands of Costa Rica from sea level to about 800 meters. It is known from premontane wet and tropical wet forest life zones.

The species is named in honor of Dr. Christopher Davidson who made the first studies of the species in the field. His observations, herbarium specimens and live collections have been very useful to me.

Philodendron davidsonii was long considered to be *P. talamancae* in South Florida and has been widely cultivated. The latter species, a member of section *Pteromischum*, is in no way related. This misidentification was further perpetuated because of photographs bearing the same name in *Exotica* (pp. 190-222).³ The species is quite showy and deserves a proper name of its own.

Other specimens seen: Costa Rica: Limon: Hacienda Tapezco-Hda. La Suerte. 29 air km west of Tortuguero; elev. 40 meters. *Davidson 7097* (LAM, MO); *8782* (MO); Costa Rica: Heredia: Finca La Selva, 100 meters, *Grayum 2829* (DUKE, MO).

¹ Assisted by National Science Foundation Grant DEB 80 11 649.

² Faculty of Associate of Botany, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

³ Graf. A.B. *Exotica III*, Pictorial Cyclopedia of Exotic Plants. Roehrs Co., Rutherford, N.J. 1963.