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Inflorescence of *Monstera gracilis* Engler

## Rediscovery of a Rare *Monstera*

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In the Revision of *Monstera* by Madison (1977), *Monstera gracilis* Engler is described as a rare species from a limited geographic area in eastern Colombia. It was illustrated in the revision only by a photo of an herbarium specimen. The species occurs in forests bordering the western edge of the llanos in the departments of Meta and Putomayo from 450-1400 meters. On a recent trip to an area near the type locality, about 60 km south of Villavicencio, it was found in flower, growing with two other species of *Monstera*, namely *M. lechleriana* Schott and *M. dilacerata* (C. Koch and Sello) C. Koch.

Since the species is rare, it is illustrated here and some additional information is

reported to further augment the description. Most important perhaps is that the spadices may be longer than previously reported, ranging up to 9 cm long. This may be critical because spadix size was used to distinguish this species from *M. dilacerata*.

Petioles may range up to 50 cm long; blades may range to 52 cm long and 38 cm wide; peduncles range up to 22 cm long.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Madison, M. 1977. A revision of *Monstera* (Araceae), Contributions from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University No. 207, pp.100.

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*Monstera gracilis* Engler