



Fig. 1. *Philodendron rugosum*, showing rugose blade with basal tubes overlapping.



Fig. 2. *Philodendron rugosum*, showing narrow sinus.

AROID PROFILE NO. 9

Philodendron rugosum

Bogner & Bunting
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Philodendron rugosum Bogner & Bunting, Willdenowia 13: 183-185. 1983.

Usually epiphytic, sometimes epipetric; stems mostly 3-5 cm diameter on adult plants, the internodes 1.5-3 cm long, green to gray-green, smooth, eventually light brown, sometimes heavily tinged with red; cataphylls green, unribbed to bluntly 2-ribbed, 15-22 cm long, deciduous.

Leaves coriaceous, petioles more or less erect, obtusely flattened adaxially, 38-60 cm long, somewhat spongy, sheathed 6-10 cm; blades coriaceous, broadly ovate to almost rounded, abruptly acuminate and downturned at the apex, 21-41 cm long, 21-39 cm wide; posterior lobes broadly rounded, the sinus closed or nearly so, 4.5-10 cm deep, the lobes overlapping or turned upward; broadest at or somewhat below the middle; upper surface medium green, minutely rugose with a close pattern of "cross veins" interconnecting all the lateral veins; the midrib broadly rounded at base to ca. 2 cm wide, greatly diminished by the distal 2/3 of the blade, paler than the surface; primary lateral veins 5-10 pairs, not markedly sunken, scarcely more prominent above than the smaller veins; the basal veins 4-5 pairs, free to the base or united 1-2 cm; the lower surface paler than the upper surface, smooth, semiglossy; the veins mostly inconspicuous, the margin hyaline.

Inflorescences up to 6 per axil; peduncles somewhat flattened, 3.5-5.5 cm long, ca. 1.5 cm diameter, green to reddish; spathe 8-12 cm long, the tube portion not obviously constricted, to 2.5 cm diameter, red on outside, faintly red

within; the blade acute at apex, ellipsoid and fully erect at anthesis, creamy-white, becoming reddish in age; spadix sessile, equaling the spathe, to 10 cm long, the pistillate spadix to 5 cm long; pistils whitish; the staminate spadix creamy white, 5 cm long, 1.2 cm diameter, blunt at apex, protruding somewhat outward at anthesis.

Philodendron rugosum, a member of section *Oligospermum*, is known only from Ecuador in a premontane rain forest life zone in the Province of Pastaza at elevations of 1,000 to 1,700 meters. It is distinguished from any other known species by its thick, broadly ovate leaves which are finely etched on the upper surface in the manner of an upholstery fabric commercially known as "naugahyde." Others have referred to this feature as "pigskin."

The species was first brought into cultivation by Mr. Joe Brenner of Puyo. It is now in cultivation at the Bonn and Berlin Botanical Gardens in West Germany, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the New York Botanical Garden, Selby Botanical Garden and in a variety of private collections as well. It has been tissue cultured by Mr. H. Prinsler, Hennef, Fed. Republic of Germany. The type specimen was prepared by Josef Bogner (1522) from the original Brenner material collected 10-12 km ESE of Puyo and is deposited at the Munich Herbarium.

I first studied and collected the species in the field in 1979 and the following specimens are cited:

Ecuador: Napo: Along road between Baeza and Lago Agria, 72.5 km west of

Lago Agria, elev. 1,166 meters, *Croat 49531* (MO, QCA); Along road between Baeza and Tena, 31.9 km N of Archidona; 1,660 meters elev., *Croat 49608* (MO); Pastaza: Along road to Tarabita (west of Puyo) and the portage over the Río Pastaza (north of Río Pastaza) ca 3 km from Mera road; elev. 1,000 meters, *Croat 49708* (K, MO, QCA).

Since the type description of *Philodendron rugosum* was recently published in

a journal unlikely to be available to most members, this interesting and beautiful species seemed a logical one for the Aroid Profile series. It has proven to be an easy species to grow. Though I grow it in a relatively cool and moist portion of my greenhouse, it survives long periods in air-conditioned, dehumidified buildings with no sign of leaf loss or edge browning. It does best in a loose soil mix.

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Fig. 3. *Philodendron rugosum*, showing petiole, cataphyll and inflorescence.

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Fig. 4. *Philodendron rugosum* Bogner & Bunting, showing habit.