



Fig. 9. *Anthurium crenatum* (L.) Kunth in the tropical house, with the whip-like inflorescences on elongate peduncles snaking out from under the foliage.



Fig. 10. The inflorescence of the Venezuelan *Anthurium pentaphyllum* var. *digitatum* (Jacq.) Mad., growing in a large basket.

John Banta



John Banta

Left to Right: Mrs. S. Mayo, Bruce McAlpin, Simon Mayo, R. D. Sheffer, Libby Besse, P. B. Tomlinson, Tom B. Croat, Tom Ray, J. C. French, Lloyd Goldwasser, Richard Henny, Lord Alistair Hay, Helen Young, Dan Nicolson, Mark Moffler, William Carvell.

## Aroid Workshop at Harvard Forest

Thomas B. Croat

The second, in what is hoped to be a continuing series of meetings dealing with research on aroids, was held at Harvard Forest in Petersham, Massachusetts during the weekend of May 25-27th. The first such meeting was sponsored by the Marie Selby Botanical Garden in March of 1980 and was arranged by Mike Madison. The recent meeting at Harvard Forest, a research branch of Harvard University, was arranged by Dr. P. B. Tomlinson and Dr. J. French.

The purpose of the meeting was to get an update on the research activities of the different workers. This was especially important in the area of subfamilial classification where several active workers are rapidly changing our concepts of the long-used Englerian system of classification of the family.

The Harvard Forest research center, situated in the rural atmosphere of a small town, yet endowed with excellent quarters and meeting rooms, proved an ideal setting for the meetings. The activities started on Friday evening with a mixer following Barry Tomlinson's trip with the van to the Boston airport to collect speakers arriving from different points. Old friends and new acquaintances got together over beer or sherry and of course, the subject of conversation was invariably "aroids".

The following day's paper sessions were stimulating, beginning with Dan Nicolson's discussion of the Bogner-Nicolson subfamilial system of classification and ending with Mike Grayum's revision of the system read by his major professor Jim Walker. Tom Croat presented a summary of the many floristic and revisionary projects on which he is working. Presentations were made during the course of the afternoon and on Sunday morning. Jim French spoke on "Comparative Anatomy of the Araceae" and Simon Mayo on "Aspects of Phytogeography in Araceae". Tom Ray spoke on "Developmental Ecology

of the Araceae" and Dick Sheffer on "Anthurium Chromosome Studies". Allistair Hay presented new information on the subfamily Lasiodeae and Lloyd Goldwasser spoke on "Pollination Biology of Various Genera at La Selva in Costa Rica". Helen Young spoke on "Reproductive Strategies of Dieffenbachia" and Mark Moffler talked about his research with Homalomena. Jake Henny discussed his breeding program with Alocasia and Dieffenbachia at Apopka and John Banta presented a discussion of "Color Patterns in Plants", posing questions as to the significance of such patterns.

On Saturday evening we watched cinematographic anatomical movies (plant, not human anatomy) prepared by Jim French and Sunday afternoon we took a field trip to Harvard pond where we collected and observed *Calla palustris* L. Later we drove down to near the southern border of Massachusetts to an interesting wooded area with a pond full of *Orontium aquaticum* L. near Monson, Mass. The area was also inhabited by most of the remainder of the American aroid genera including *Arisaema triphyllum* (L.) Schott, *Symplocarpus foetidus* (L.) Nutt. and *Acorus calamus* L. Most of us had never seen living specimens of Orontium so the trip was well worth the drive.

Sunday evening found us discussing the interesting and often controversial findings that had been presented. The affair wound down Monday morning with everyone departing after laying plans to meet again in Berlin in 1987 with the International Botanical Congress where we hopefully can synthesize all the information gathered to date and formulate a revised system of classification of the Araceae.

Though no summary of the presentations has been made here, it is hoped that all of the participants in the workshop will write articles for Aroideana summarizing their research projects.