

A New Collection of the Rare *Alloschemone occidentalis* (Poepp.) Engl. & Krause

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A recent collection by Timothy Plowman and associates made in December 1982 on the Projecto Flora Project under the auspices of the New York Botanical Garden in Brazil has proven to be the rare *Alloschemone occidentalis*. The monotypic Amazonas endemic genus was previously known only from three collections. The type locality was at Ega (now known as Tefe) on the Rio Salimoes while the second collection was made by B.A. Krukoff near Humayta on the Rio Madeira in the southern part of the state of Amazonas. The Krukoff collection was made about a hundred years after Peoppig made the original collection. More than 50 years later the species was collected by Mike Madison (Madison, 1979) on the Rio Marie, a tributary of the Rio Negro at 0°27'S, 66°26'W. The new collection from still another river system, was made on the Rio Japurá. The Plowman collection (12207) was made near the town of Maraã on Lago Maraã in the north central part of the state of Amazonas more than 100 km N.N.E. of Tefe (approximate coordinates 1°51'S, 65°36'W).

The species was described as a "high climbing epiphyte on a tree trunk. Leaves somewhat shiny, medium green on the upper surface; lighter green on the lower surface. Spathe coriaceous, cream with a rosy tinge, deciduous. Spadix pale yellow, very fragrant". The species was redescribed and illustrated by Madison (1976) but he did not mention the size of the blade. The

blades are coriaceous and are deeply incised-lobed (pinnate) with 4-6 lobes per side. Engler (1908) describes the blades as being to 1.3 m long (with petiole included). The blades on the Plowman collection are to 69 cm long and 62 cm wide. The spathe may be up to 13 cm long (reported by Engler to be 10 cm long).

This is an important new find as the genus is rare and poorly known. Fortunately, Madison sent a cutting of his collection to Josef Bogner in München and it hopefully will flower and be further studied. The accompanying photographs of the pre-adult foliage were taken of that collection in München.

In his 1976 paper, Madison placed *Alloschemone* into synonymy under *Scindapsus* but later he (personal communication) has expressed doubts that it belongs there. The current thought among aroid taxonomists is that *Alloschemone* is a distinct genus. All species of *Scindapsus* are known only from the Old World tropics.

Literature Cited

- Engler, A. & K. Krause 1908. Araceae-Monsteroideae. Das Pflanzenreich 4 (23b):1-160. 1908.
- Madison, M. 1976. *Alloschemone* and *Scindapsus* (Araceae). Selbyana 1:325-327.
- _____, M. 1979. Notes on some Aroids along the Rio Negro, Brazil, Aroideana 2:67-77.

Alloschemone occidentalis (Poepp.) Engl. & Krause, Das Pflanzenr. Heft 37. IV 23B.
117. 1908.



Figs. 1 and 2: Juvenile leaf blades $\times \frac{1}{3}$. Collected Brazil: Amazonas. Rio Marie by M. Madison (6310). Photo taken from Munich Botanical Garden. Photo by J. Bogner.



Fig. 3. Pre-Adult leaf blade.