

Montrichardia arborescens (L.) Schott (Araceae) Newly Reported for Mexico

Thomas B. Croat
Missouri Botanical Garden
P.O. Box 299
St. Louis, MO 63166
E-mail: Thomas.Croat@mobot.org

German Carnevali Fernández-Concha
Herbarium CICY
Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán A.C. (CICY)
Calle 43, no. 130
Col. Chuburná de Hidalgo
97200 Mérida, Yucatán
México
E-mail: carneval@cicy.mx

Leon Ibarra González
Brigada de Educación para el Desarrollo Rural N° 3 (DGETA)
E-mail: Leo50@prodigy.net.mx

ABSTRACT

The genus *Montrichardia*, represented by *M. arborescens* is reported for the first time in Mexico.

KEY WORDS

Mexico, *Montrichardia*, new report, Araceae.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Montrichardia*, which has not been revised since *Das Pflanzenreich* (Engler, 1911), ranges from southern Mexico throughout Central America to the Amazon basin. The genus has only two species. *Montrichardia arborescens* (L.) Schott occurs in Central America, the Lesser Antilles, and northern South America. In South America, it is most common in northeast Venezuela in the states of Monagas, Sucre and Delta Amacuro, but also occurs in Guárico, and ranges through the Orinoco River drainage into the Amazon basin occurring in Bolívar, Amazonas and Sucre. The species overlaps with *M. linifera* (Arruda) Schott in Monagas and Guárico states, Venezuela, but is mostly re-

placed by *M. linifera* in the Amazon basin. The latter species occurs primarily in the Amazon basin ranging from southern Venezuela (Apure, Bolívar, Guarico, Monagas & Sucre) to Guyana, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru.

Montrichardia arborescens occurs primarily on the Caribbean slope in Central America, but on both slopes of the continental divide in Costa Rica and Panama. *Montrichardia linifera* may actually occur in Central America based on a single observation of plants seen by the senior author in the village of El Real in Darién Province in Panama. No collection was made, but that population needs to be examined since the plants had all the features of *M. linifera*.

Montrichardia is distinguished from other aroids by its rooted aquatic habit with stems appearing woody with conspicuous leaf scars; by large, ovate-sagittate blades with posterior lobes longer than the anterior lobe; by convolute, *Philodendron*-like spathes; and the large cluster of green, buoyant fruits.

The following key from Croat & Lambert (1986) defines the differences in the species.

- 1a. Blades sagittate, generally conspicuously longer than broad; sinus frequently open; cusp of the leaf sheath 0.5–1.5 cm long; stems usually moderately slender and armed with sharp spines (at least near base)
 . . . *Montrichardia arborescens* (L.) Schott
- 1b. Blades cordate, generally about as broad as long; sinus frequently closed; cusp of the leaf sheath 3–7 cm long; stems usually thick and bamboo-like, smooth or at most with minute, blunt projections . . .
 . . . *Montrichardia linifera* (Arruda) Schott

This paper constitutes the first report for *M. arborescens* for Mexico collected by Leon Ibarra Gonzalez in the State of Quintana Roo at Allende, Río Hondo stream. The plant was uncommon in the area, and was growing in a flat flood plain near a river in partial shade. It stood 5 m in height with stems 5 cm in diam., and 38

cm long blades borne on petioles to 64 cm long.

Specimens examined—MEXICO. **Quintana Roo:** Municipio Othón P. Blanco, vic. Ignacio Allende, 6 m from the Río Hondo, 40 m from the main rd.; 18°22'47.32"N, 88°32'59.3"W, 29 May 2002, *M. A. Campos et al.* *LIG-165* (CICY, MO); 17 Jan. 2003, *G. Carnevali et al.* 6596 (CICY, MO).

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