

Cryptocoryne dewitii N. Jacobsen sp. nov. (Araceae)

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A new species of *Cryptocoryne* from Papua, New Guinea is described and illustrated.

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Cryptocoryne dewitii N. Jacobsen sp. nov.

Folia circiter 15 cm longa; laminae supra obscure virides, subtus pallidiores, 7–8 cm longae, anguste ovales, basi cordatae, margine leviter undulatae, in herbario complanatae irregulariter dentatas se praebentes. Spatha circiter 8 cm longa; tubus circiter 2 cm longus; limbus circiter 5 cm longus, anguste ovalis vel lanceolatus, lacteus vel flavidus, basi albidus, supra obscurior, extus cinnamomeus; collare faucale nullum; tubus inferior ut videtur alveolis nullis. Spadix circiter 1 cm longus; stigma ovale, breviter pedicellatum; corpora olfactoria irregularia; flores masculi circiter 30.

Holotypus die 16 Augusti anni 1971 in silva palustri paulum supra mare prope Kiunga Airstrip tractus Kiungensis regionis Papuanae Western District insulae New Guinea sub numero NGF 46818 a P. Katik lectus, siccus in Herbario Smithsoniano (US) depositus, isotypis in Herbario Leydensi (L) et Herbario Laensi (LAE).

The drawing is a reconstruction of the specimen at LAE. However, as the middle part of the spathe is missing, the spathe of the US specimen has been inserted instead. The upper part of the spathe is missing in the L specimen.

No stolons are present on the herbarium specimens, but they were doubtless broken off when the plants were dug up.

The species was found in lowland forest in the central western part of Papua, at an altitude of c. 70 m. The short tube of the spathe indicates an amphibious habit, and the plants were probably emersed at the time of flowering. The leaves are covered with a thin layer of mud and ochre. The colour of the limb was described as cream by the collector. The colours fade somewhat on drying and it is no longer possible to describe the

colouration of the spathe more precisely. The outside of the limb seems to be more brown than the rest. The herbarium specimens have denticulate leaf margins, an artefact obviously caused by pressing the slightly undulate leaf margins of the live plant.

The species is endemic to New Guinea, where *C. ciliata* (Roxb.) Schott and *C. versteegii* Engler also occur. Rataj (1975) cited the collection of this new species under *C. versteegii* Engler. This species is characterized by its green, fleshy leaves with an almost triangular leaf-blade (Engler 1920, de Wit 1971), a spathe with a yellow throat and collar and a very short, rugose, purple limb (Jacobsen 1977).

Cryptocoryne dewitii is characterized by oval leaves with a slightly undulate margin, the rather wide, yellow to cream opening of the spathe rather flat, elongate limb, and the absence of collar.

The species is named in honour of Prof. H. D. de Wit, nestor of the *Crypto's*.

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References

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Fig. 1. *Cryptocoryne devitii*. - A: Habit. - B: Limb of the spathe. - C: Spadix. - A $\times 0.7$, B $\times 1.6$, C $\times 8$.