Cryptocoryne gasseri N. Jacobsen, sp. nov. (Araceae)

Niels Jacobsen


A new species of Cryptocoryne from Sumatra, C. gasseri, is described and illustrated. It is related to C. scurrlis De Wit.

Niels Jacobsen, Institute of systematic botany, University of Copenhagen, Gathersgade 140, DK-1123 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

Cryptocoryne gasseri N. Jacobsen, sp. nov.

Holotypus: Gasserr s.n., 13.4.1978, cult. ex Sumatra (C).

Folia c. 10 cm longa; laminae c. 4 x 2.5 cm, saturate viridis, manifesto bullosae, basi plus minus cordatae. Spatha c. 4 cm longa; tubus c. 2 cm; limbus brevior, flavus, reflexus, supra juxta marginem verrucis irregulatiter dentiformibus armatus; collare manifestum proprio modo angustatum. Spadix c. 0.75 cm longus; stigmata ovalia; corpora olfactoria rotundata; flores masculi 30-40. Numerus chromosomaticum 2n = 30.

The illustration (x 1) is drawn after colour slides of the live plant.

The species is related to C. scurrlis De Wit (2n = 60) from which it differs by the broader, more cordate, somewhat bullate leaves, by the yellow spathe with the more or less flattened denticulations along the margin, and by the chromosome number.

Nothing is known as to the exact origin of the plant; it came in a shipment of waterplants from Sumatra. The shipment also contained C. scurrlis.

The two species of the C. scurrlis group, endemic to Sumatra, are characterized by the very narrow passage through the collar, which gives the limb a peculiar look. In the C. pontederiifolia group, also endemic to Sumatra, the collar is broader.

The species is named in honour of R. A. Gasser, Florida, who has devoted much to the art and science of cultivating Cryptocoryne.

I should like to thank Tyge Christensen for the Latin description.