

A New Name for *Xanthosoma lindenii*

James B. Watson

Herbarium Assistant
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Miami, Florida

One of the most beautiful aroids grown for its foliage is *Xanthosoma lindenii*. Recently, this species was transferred to the genus *Caladium* by Dr. Michael Madison in his article "Notes on *Caladium* (Araceae) and its Allies" (Selbyana, 1981, 5:342-377). Available from Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Palm Ave., Sarasota, Fla. 33579. The new name is *Caladium lindenii* (André) Madison. Dr. Madison decided this taxon is a species of *Caladium* because its flower structure and pollen morphology are

typical for that genus. In this article the author also provides a discussion of the tribe Caladieae which is followed by keys (which are very workable) and descriptions for the species in five genera: *Aphyllarum*, *Caladium*, *Chlorospatha*, *Jasarum*, and *Scaphispatha*. Only a few new species are described for the sixth genus in the tribe, *Xanthosoma*, because it is being revised by Ms. Sue Thompson. This well-written article, though sparsely illustrated, is a useful tool for identifying species in the genera listed above.

Stimulation of Flowering in *Aglaonema* with Gibberellic Acid (GA₃)

R. J. Henry¹

Recent discoveries of new types of *Aglaonema* with unusual foliar variegation patterns and petiole colorations have increased the breeding potential for this genus. Potential for development of exciting new hybrids has never been greater. For such promise to be realized, however, it is necessary to be able to induce simultaneous flowering of different *Aglaonema* species and cultivars. A single foliar spray of 250 ppm gibberellic acid (GA₃) stimulates uniform flowering of several *Dieffenbachia* cultivars (1). In addition, increasing the GA₃ concentration from 250 to 500 ppm significantly increases the number of flowers produced. This

study was conducted to test the effect of GA₃ on flowering of *Aglaonema commutatum* Schott 'Treubii'.

Established single-stemmed plants growing in 20-cm (8-inch) pots were sprayed once on the upper and lower leaf surfaces until runoff with 0 (distilled water), 100, 200 and 400 ppm of GA₃ in December 1981. Tween 20 at 0.5 ml/liter (500 ppm) was used as a wetting agent. Plants were maintained under natural photoperiod in a shaded greenhouse at 1,000-1,500 ft-c light. There were 9 plants at each treatment level. The number of days to opening of the first inflorescence (unfurling of the spathe) and the total number of inflorescences per plant were recorded.

All plants sprayed with GA₃ had at least one open bloom within 148 days following treatment (Table 1). The mean number of days to flower was

¹ University of Florida, IFAS, Agricultural Research Center — Apopka, Rt. 3, Box 580, Apopka, FL 32703.

143.7, 142.7 and 147.2 days at 100, 200 and 400 ppm GA₃ treatments, respectively. A single untreated control plant produced 3 blooms during this period, but none of the other control plants showed any sign of flowering after 180 days.

The mean number of inflorescences per plant was 4.7, 5.3 and 6.7 at the 100, 200 and 400 ppm GA₃ treatments, respectively (Table 1). Flowers were normal in appearance and produced viable pollen.

Following this test, stock plants of *Aglaonema rotunda* N. E. Br., *A. commutatum* (Schott) Nicols., 'Tricolor', *A. nitidum* (Jack) Kunth *curtissii*, *A. pictum* (Roxb.) Kunth 'Tricolor', *A. crispum* (Pitcher & Manda) Nicols., 'Chartreuse Halo', *A. x Manilla* and *A. x 'Abidjan'* flowered simultaneously within 5 months after a single foliar spray with 250 ppm GA₃, allowing cross pollinations for the first time. GA₃ is now routinely used to induce

flowering of *Aglaonema* stock plants in our breeding program.

We use a 20 oz plastic container of ProGibb[®] (3.91% a.i.) as the source of GA₃*. Mixing 2 tablespoons of ProGibb with 1 gallon of water yields approximately a 250 ppm solution. Be sure to include a wetting agent to aid coverage. Spray all leaves thoroughly especially the growing point. Plants will flower within 4-5 months after treatment, depending upon the rate of growth. Plants treated in summer will bloom sooner than those treated in winter.

Literature Cited

1. Henny, R. J. and E. M. Rasmussen. 1980. Stimulation of flowering in *Dieffenbachia*. *Aroideana* 3:96-97.

* Use of trade names does not imply a recommendation of those products over others with similar active ingredients.

Table 1. Effect of a single gibberellic acid (GA₃) spray on number of days to flower and number of inflorescences per plant of *Aglaonema commutatum* 'Treubii.'

GA ₃ conc (ppm)	Mean days to first bloom ²	Mean No. of Inflorescences
0 (control)	— ^y	— ^y
100	143.7	4.7
200	142.7	5.3
400	142.2	6.7

² Days after treatment until first inflorescence opened.

^y 1 of 9 control plants flowered after 143 days, with 3 blooms.