

Colocasia esculenta var. *antiquorum* (Schott) Hubbard & Rehd.

genus *Colocasia* Schott.

Overview

General Description

Perennial evergreen herbs with stout tuber. Leaves 2-3 or more, green, ovate, 20-50 cm long, apex short acuminate, lateral veins 4, up to margins; petiole 20-90 cm long. Inflorescences solitary. Spathe ca. constricted 20 cm long, tube green, 4 cm long, 2.2 cm wide, long-ellipsoid. spadix ca. 10 cm long, flowers unisexual, female portion, 3-3.5 cm long, 1.2 cm wide, conic, sterile portion slender, 3-3.3 cm long, male portion 4-4.5 cm long, 7 mm wide, cylinder; appendix short, ca. 1 cm long.

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Description

Diagnostic Description

Colocasia esculenta var. *antiquorum* is close relative of *Colocasia esculenta* var. *esculenta*, but differs from the latter in its having stolons (vs. without stolons).

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Genetics

The chromosomal number of *Colocasia esculenta* var. *antiquorum* is $2n = 42$ (Udengwu and Okafor, 1999).

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Ecology and Distribution

Cyclicity

Flowering from February to April.

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Distribution

Colocasia esculenta var. *antiquorum* is native in tropical Asia, cultivated and escaped in N and S of China.

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Habitat

Growing in wetland.

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Relevance

Uses

The corn and leaves of *Colocasia esculenta* var. *antiquorum* are edible. Corms of the small round variety are peeled and boiled. Its leaves are rich in vitamins. It is also as an ornamental aquatic plant.

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Taxonomy

Arum esculentum L. (synonym)

Colocasia antiquorum var. *esculenta* (L.) Schott (synonym)

References

Udengwu, O. S., & Okafor N. A. (1999). Karyomorphological studies of five edible *Colocasia* and *Xanthosoma* species. Nucleus. 42,



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