



A new species of *Philodendron* subg. *Pteromischum* (Araceae) from the Paraná River, Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Philodendron* subg. *Pteromischum* was found growing along the Paraná River and it is here described and illustrated. *Philodendron rheophyticum* is similar to *P. flumineum* from which it differs by its obscure lateral veins, by having an obovate leaf blade, longer spadix and pistils with 3–4 locules. *Philodendron rheophyticum* is also similar to *P. sonderianum* but from which it can be distinguished by its obscure primary lateral veins, by having upright closed sheath, obovate leaf shape, longer length of spathe and petiole.

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de *Philodendron* subg. *Pteromischum* foi encontrada crescendo às margens do Rio Paraná e é aqui descrita e ilustrada. *Philodendron rheophyticum* é semelhante à *P. flumineum* do qual difere pelas nervuras laterais primárias obscuras, por apresentar uma lâmina foliar obovata, espádice maior e pistilos com 3–4 lóculos. *Philodendron rheophyticum* é também semelhante à *P. sonderianum* do qual pode ser distinguido pelas nervuras laterais primárias obscuras, por apresentar bainha fechada ereta, lâmina foliar obovata e maior comprimento de espata e pecíolo.

Key words: aroids, Paraná river, Southern Brazil, taxonomy

Introduction

Philodendron Schott (1829: 780), which occurs mainly in humid tropical forests (Krause 1913, Sakuragui *et al.* 2012), is the second largest genus of the family Araceae with about 700 estimated species and only 482 published (Boyce & Croat 2014). Around 35% (168 spp.) are listed for Brazil, 48% of these are endemic (Coelho *et al.* 2014). The genus is divided into three subgenera: *Meconostigma* (Schott 1832: 20) Engler (1899: 554), *Philodendron*, and *Pteromischum* (Schott 1856: 77) Mayo (1989: 168) (Mayo *et al.* 1997).

Subgenus *Pteromischum* can be distinguished by the presence of a long and well-developed foliar sheath and by having anysophyllous sympodial growth, with several to many leaves per stem article. Leaf blades usually show primary lateral veins, sunken above, convex below, and the number of veins is quite variable, which is useful for distinguishing species. The species frequently occur in low and mid elevation humid forests throughout the Neotropics (Grayum 1996).

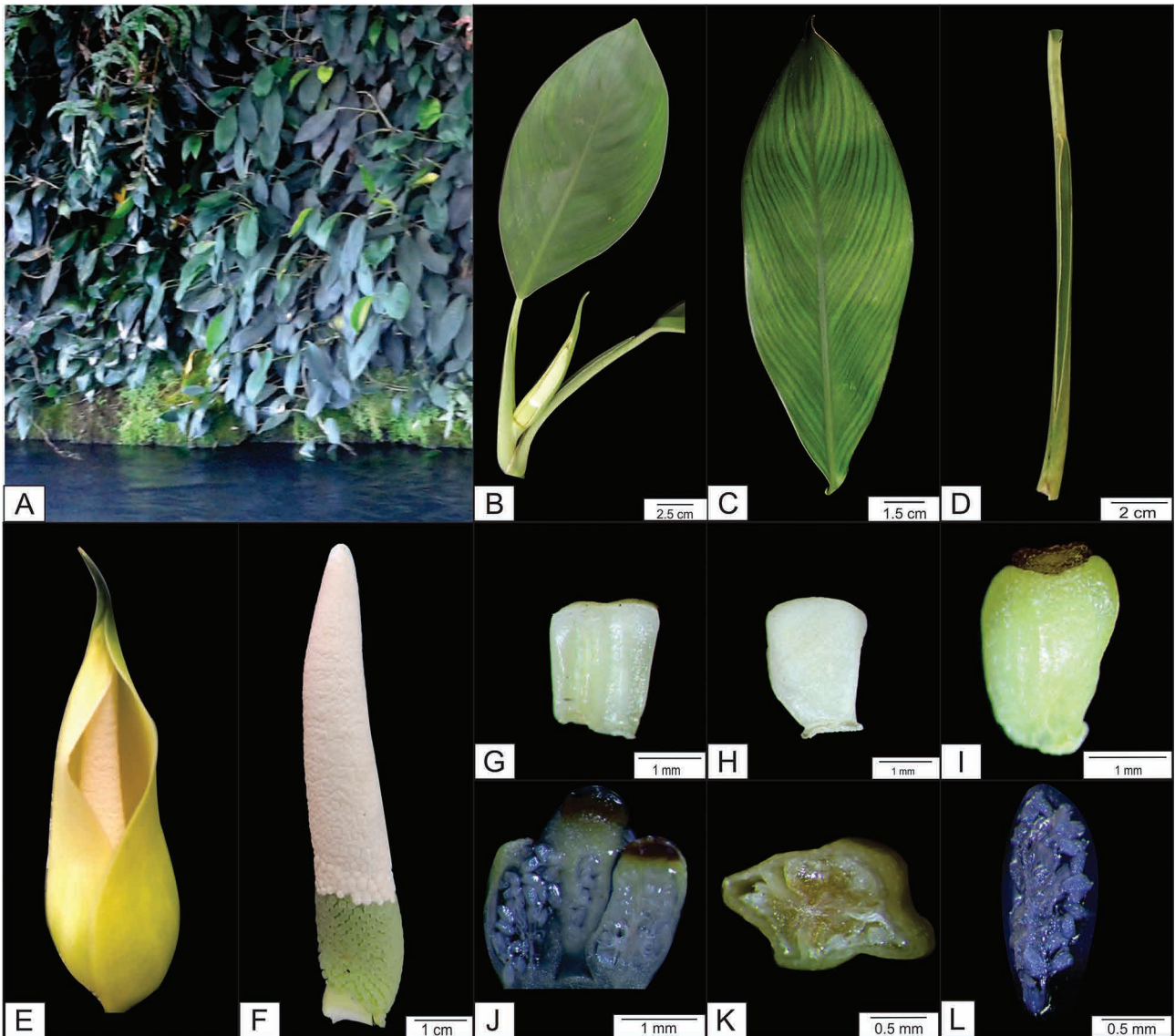


FIGURE 2. *Philodendron rheophyticum*. A. Plants in habitat. B. Flowering branch with immature inflorescence. C. Blade leaf. D. Petiole showing the extensive petiolar sheath. E. Inflorescence, showing the partially closed spathe at pistillate anthesis. F. Spadix. G. Stamen in side view. H. Staminode from the basal zone in side view. I. Gynoecium. J. Longitudinal section view of the ovary, showing the ovules. K. Cross-section view of the ovary, showing the locules. L. Ovules surrounded by mucilage.

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