

A NEW SPECIES OF ANTHURIUM SECT. CALOMYSTRIMUM
(ARACEAE) FROM THE VENEZUELAN ANDES

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ABSTRACT

A new species of Anthurium (Araceae), *A. ramoncaracasii* Stergios & Dorr, from the Venezuelan Andes is described and illustrated. A number of characters indicate that it is best placed in *A. sect. Calomystrium* Schott emend. Engl. for which a key to the Venezuelan species is provided.

Key words: Araceae, Anthurium, Andes, Venezuela.

**NUEVA ESPECIE DE ANTHURIUM SECT. CALOMYSTRIMUM (ARACEAE)
DE LOS ANDES VENEZOLANOS**

RESUMEN

Se describe y se ilustra una nueva especie de Anthurium (Araceae), *A. ramoncaracasii* de los Andes de Venezuela. Un conjunto de caracteres indican que su mejor ubicación es en la *A. sect. Calomystrium* Schott emend. Engl. para lo cual se presenta una clave de las especies venezolanas.

Palabras clave: Araceae, Anthurium, Andes, Venezuela.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Anthurium* Schott consists of about 1100 neotropical species (Coehio 2004). Its centre of diversity is in the northern Andes, from Colombia and Venezuela through Ecuador. In Venezuela, about 70 species have been recorded, where they are most frequently found in moist, Andean slope forests at varying elevations. Representation of the genus increases in abundance and species richness in montane and cloud forest belts above 1000 m (Bunting 1979, 1995; Croat 1981).

In Guaramacal National Park, which protects an area of ca. 200 km² in the Andes of Venezuela (Portuguesa and Trujillo states) (Dorr et al. 2000), *Anthurium* is the most species rich of the five aroid genera presently recorded, with 15 species collected to date. Of these species the most widespread and frequently collected is *A. nymphaeifolium* K. Koch & Bouché, which is distinctive with its eye-catching white to whitish-rose spathe and rather large, nodding leaves. Another distinctive species of

Anthurium found in Guaramacal and on at least one neighbouring mountain ridge in Portuguesa state appears to be new and is described here.

Anthurium ramoncaracasii Stergios & Dorr, sp. nov., ([Fig. 1](#) and [2](#)).

TYPE: VENEZUELA: **TRUJILLO:** Municipio Boconó, Parque Nacional Guaramacal. Trail from casa Vicuyal toward Páramo de Vicuyal (UTM: 19-361503 E, 1015476 N), bosque montano, montano alto de vertiente, 2200–2600 m snm, 10/04/2003, B. Stergios, L.J. Dorr, S.M. Niño & R. Caracas 20101 (Holotype, PORT; Isotypes, K, MO, NY, US, VEN).

Herba terrestris, robusta, cataphyllis lineari-loriformibus, 24–26 cm longis, 2.5–3 cm latis. Petioli subteretes, 73–75 cm longi, apicem versus attenuati. Folia late ovata, 50–60 cm longa vel longiora, 30–33 cm lata, cum petiolo angulum 90° formantia, subcoriacea, obscure nitida, venis secundariis teriartiisque subtus conspicuis. Spatha late ovato-cymbiformis, erecta, apicem versus incurvata, e pallide viridescenti luteo-viridescens, 14–18 cm longa, 6–8 cm lata; spadice tereti, declinato a spatha verticali eamque superante, viridescente, suffuso roseo-vinoso, 15–21 cm longo, 1.5–1.8 cm lato.

Robust, terrestrial herb; stem firm, self-elevating or semi-supported near the base by rocks or tree-trunks, 1.5–2 cm wide in dried specimens; internodes 2–3 cm long. Cataphylls linear-loriform, obtuse, reddish-brown when dry, 24–26 cm long, 2.5–3 cm wide, 3/8–1/2 as long as the petiole, long-persistent, entire. Petioles subterete, glossy, 73–75 cm long, somewhat sulcate dorsally near the base for 8–10 cm. Leaf blades perpendicular to the petiole, widely ovate, typically 50 to > 60 cm long, 30–33 cm wide near insertion of petiole, subcoriaceous, semilustrous; sinus moderately to widely spathulate, 2–5 cm wide; lateral nerves and veinlets readily visible on both surfaces, mid-vein and basal nerves strongly raised on lower surface; collective vein originating from uppermost basal vein, running along upper half of anterior lobe, 5–8 mm distant from the margin; basal veins 10–12 in all, the lowermost 3 in each lobe grouped at the base. Inflorescence large and conspicuous on a subterete, semiglossy, tapering peduncle, 45–65 cm long; spathe widely ovate-cymbiform, erect but incurved apically, light greenish-cream to greenish-yellow in colour, with a hint of greenish-rose internally at the base, 14–18 cm long, 6–8 cm wide at widest point; spadix terete, only slightly tapering, declined 45° to nearly 90° outward from the upright spathe, 15–21 cm long, 1.5–1.8 cm thick, always longer than the spathe, greenish-rose-wine coloured, arising from a stipe 1–2.5 cm long on the naked side. Flowers bisexual, 7–9 visible in principal spiral; tepals free, erect, then becoming reflexed at the apex, fully exposing the partially (younger spikes) to notably (older spikes) exerted pistils.

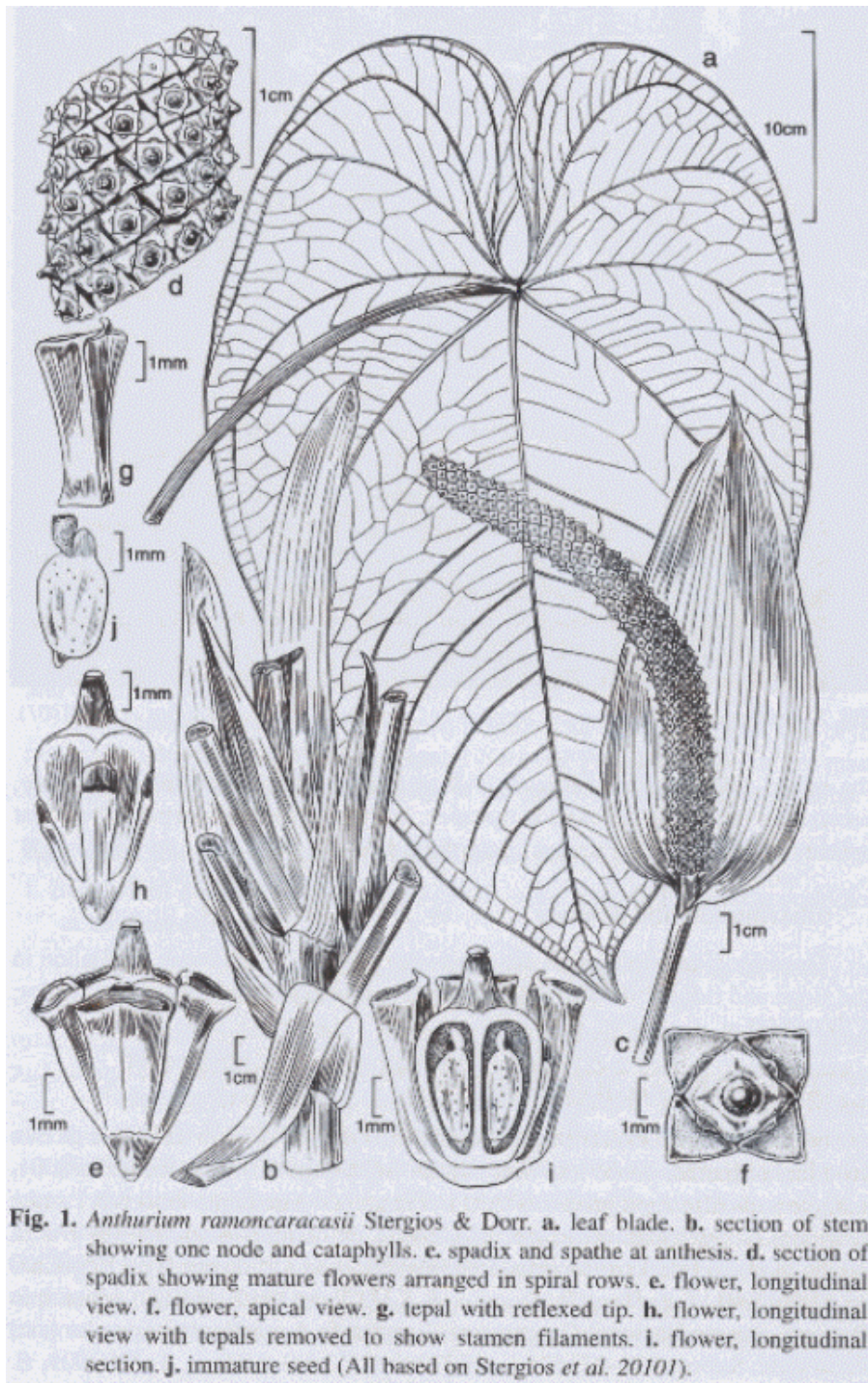


Fig. 1. *Anthurium ramoncaracasii* Stergios & Dorr. **a.** leaf blade. **b.** section of stem showing one node and cataphylls. **c.** spadix and spathe at anthesis. **d.** section of spadix showing mature flowers arranged in spiral rows. **e.** flower, longitudinal view. **f.** flower, apical view. **g.** tepal with reflexed tip. **h.** flower, longitudinal view with tepals removed to show stamen filaments. **i.** flower, longitudinal section. **j.** immature seed (All based on Stergios *et al.* 2010).



Fig. 2. *Anthurium ramoncaracasii* Stergios & Dorr (photograph of Stergios *et al.* 20101).

Distribution and Ecology

Occasional amidst humid, montane or cloud-forest understory vegetation in the slope and ridge forests of the northeastern portion of the Venezuelan Andes; 1700–2600 m.

Additional material examined

VENEZUELA: PORTUGUESA: Municipio Guanare, Cresta de la Fila de San José de la Montaña (ca. 9° 25' Lat. N; 69° 46' Long. W), 1700 m, 19/06/2001, L.J. Dorr & B. Stergios 9075 (PORT). TRUJILLO: Municipio Boconó, Parque Nacional Guaramacal, trail from El Cafenol (E of Mosquey) (19–369976 E, 1026628 N) to Fila Los Recostaderos (19–370258 E, 1026389 N), 1790–2200 m 12/06/2001, L.J. Dorr, B. Stergios & S.M. Niño 8910 (PORT); Municipio Boconó, Parque Nacional Guaramacal, Laguna de Agua Negra-parte alto [sic] de la Qda. Salvaje (19–371576 E, 1027793 N), 2000–2100 m, 14/04/2003, B. Stergios & L.J. Dorr 20243 (PORT, US), *Ibid.*, B. Stergios & L.J. Dorr 20259 (PORT, US, VEN).

Anthurium ramoncaracasii belongs to sect. *Calomystrium* Schott emend. Engl., with its distinctively cordate, coriaceous leaves; scattered, light-coloured pustule-like spots, or short, linear, clustered pale-coloured raphide cells on the lower surface of the leaf blades; and persistent, usually or mostly intact, reddishbrown cataphylls (Croat & Sheffer 1983; Croat & Lambert 1986).

The other species of *Anthurium* sect. *Calomystrium* known to occur in Venezuela include *A. formosum* Schott, *A. nubicola* G.S.Bunting, *A. nymphaeifolium* K.Koch & Bouché, and *A. roraimense* N.E.Br. ex Oliver. The occurrence of *A. angustatum* (Kunth) Schott, purportedly collected by Humboldt and Bonpland in the upper Orinoco region of Amazonian Venezuela, cannot be confirmed (Bunting 1995). *Anthurium ramoncaracasii* appears to be most closely related to *A. nymphaeifolium*, with its

spathulate leaf sinus; collective vein originating from the uppermost basal nerve and withdrawn from the leaf margin; non-shredding, brownish-maroon cataphylls; and broadly ovate, erect spathe. It differs from the latter species in its tall, more robust habit; much larger leaf blades that are perpendicular to the longer petioles (versus nutant leaf blades); long, linear-loriform cataphylls (versus much shorter, more lanceolate cataphylls); more numerous total basal veins (12 versus 10); larger, cymbiform spathe, hooded near the apex and with greenish-salmon colouring; and large, exserted and declined spadix, with revolute-tipped tepals.

Anthurium ramoncaracasii is named in honour of Ramón Caracas, one of the rangers employed to protect Guaramacal National Park and who has for many years generously shared his knowledge of the park's terrain and flora with us.

Key to the Venezuelan species of *Anthurium* sect. *Calomystrum*

1. Basal veins distinctly naked for 1.5 cm or more; cataphylls usually shredding at the base with age.
2. Collective vein originating at lower basal veins and running for nearly the entire margin; petioles terete or nearly so.
3. Lower leaf-blade surface dark glandular-punctuate; sinus hippocrepiform with posterior rib naked 1.5–2 cm ... *A. roraimense*
3. Lower leaf surface lacking dark glandular dots; sinus widely parabolic with posterior rib naked for 4–11 cm *A. formosum*
2. Collective vein originating at upper basal vein or succeeding lateral veins and running along only the distal portion of the blade; petioles angularsulcate.....*A. nubicola*
1. Basal veins free (not naked); cataphylls entire.
4. Leaf-blades ≤ 45 (50) cm, nutant; cataphylls lanceolate, $< 1/2$ the length of petiole; spathe erect, white to pink-blush red; stipe 0–5 (8) mm long; spadix \leq length of spathe, not exserted, 5-flowered along principal spiral; tepals mostly entirely erect.
.....*A. nymphaeifolium*
4. Leaf-blades 50 to > 60 cm, perpendicular to petiole; cataphylls linearloriform, $3/8$ – $1/2$ the length of petiole; spathe incurved apically, greenish-cream to greenish-yellow; stipe ≥ 2 cm long; spadix $>$ length of spathe, exserted, 7–9-flowered along principal spiral; tepals typically reflexed at apex
.....*A. ramoncaracasii*

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