

A CORRECTION FOR ISOETES TAIWANENSIS DEVOL

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In the July issue of *Taiwania* a report was made of the discovery of *Isoetes* from Taiwan (DeVol 1972: 1-7). It is now necessary to make a very important correction concerning the description of the megaspores of this new species. *Isoetes taiwanensis* DeVol belongs to the section CRISTATAE and not to section TUBERCULATAE.

The megaspore has broken ridges on its basal side and tubercles on its other faces. Plate 1 figures 3 and 4 show two views of the megaspore.

Pfeiffer lists only 2 species in his section CRISTATAE that have a 3-lobed corm, one is *I. tripus* A. Br. from Australia, the other is *I. savatieri* Franchet from near the southern tip of South America (Pfeiffer, 1922: 176-177).

I. taiwanensis differs from both of these in a number of respects but it can be readily distinguished from each of them by a single character: *I. tripus* has megaspores that are dark when wet or dry and are from 400 to 460 μ . *I. savatieri* has a velum that covers 1/3 to 3/4 of the sporangium. Our species seems to be nearer to *I. sinensis* Palmer than any other, however it lacks the 4 strong bast fibers, and the stomata are not numerous.

We have found that sporangia containing both megaspores and microspores is not a species character, in fact this is a very rare situation. Nearly all sporangia examined contain either normal megaspores or normal microspores.

It is not easy for us to grow this plant under the same kind of conditions that exist in the mountain lake from which we obtained it. A number of plants were collected, potted, and placed in a tank in the Botany Department shade-house. A continuous stream of water flows slowly through this tank and the plants are kept submersed at all times. These plants have grown excellently in this situation for over a year. In the mountain lake from where these plants were obtained, conditions are quite different. There it is often windy and cold. Sometimes it doesn't rain for weeks or even months and then the pond becomes nearly dry, so the plants in the mountain lake are not always submersed.

T. Y. Yang⁽²⁾ has found five specimens growing in our tanks showing dichotomy as discussed and illustrated by Eames (1936: 50-51). Plate 1 figures 1 and 2 show one of these specimens.

LITERATURE CITED

- DEVOL, C. E., 1972. *Isoetes* found on Taiwan. *Taiwania*, **17**(1): 1-7.
 EAMES, A. J., 1936. *Morphology of Vascular Plants, Lower Forms*, p. 50-51, McGraw-Hill Book Co.
 PFEIFFER, N. E., 1922. Monograph of the Isoetaceae. *Ann. Mo. Bot. Gardens*, **9**: 79-232.

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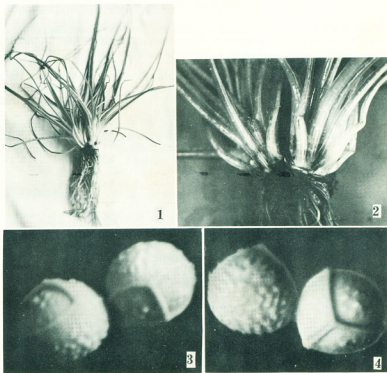


Plate 1. *Isoetes taiwanensis* DeVol

Figs. 1, 2. A specimen showing two plants growing from a single corm collected by T. Y. Yang 270. Photo by Miss C. H. Hwa.

Figs. 3, 4. Views of megaspores from a specimen collected by T. Y. Yang 269. Photo by T. F. Chung. This represents the megaspores of *I. taiwanensis* and not the illustration given on Plate 1, Fig. c, on page 5 of *Taiwania* 17(1).