A NEW RECORD OF ARISAEMA (ARACEAE) IN TAIWAN

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Abstract: Arisaema thunbergii Blume subsp. urashima (Hara) Ohashi & J. Murata (Araceae) is reported for the first time from Taiwan. A taxonomic description and a morphological comparison with A. heterophyllum Blume, a closely similar relative known to occur in Taiwan, are provided.

The genus Arisaema contains about 150 species distributed mainly in the temperate regions of Asia (Murata, 1984). The Taiwanese species were first revised by Huang (1960). In Flora of Taiwan six species were recognized (Liu & Huang, 1978). Later, Murata (1985) described a new species, Arisaema taiwanense, from Taiwan. A recent collection made by the author has resulted in the discovery of a new record, Arisaema thunbergii Blume subsp. urashima (Hara) Ohashi & J. Murata, in Taiwan.

Arisaema thunbergii Blume subsp. urashima (Hara) Ohashi et J. Murata in J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo III 12:307, 1980. 薄島天南星 Fig. 1


Tuber depressed-globose, 3-6 cm in diameter. Pseudostem 5-15 cm long, much shorter than the petiole. Cataphylls membranaceous, purplish to brownish, apex mucronate. Leaf solitary, petiole terete, 20-55 cm long; lamina pedate, leaflets 11-15, oblanceolate to elliptic, cuneate at the base, acuminate to the apex, the terminal one 10-28 cm long, 2-7.5 cm wide; peduncle 10-20 cm long, usually shorter than the petiole. Spathe white to pale yellow with dark to bronze-purple or reddish purple stripes; tube cylindrical, auriculate at the mouth, 5-7 cm long, 2-2.5 cm wide, white to pale yellow with longitudinal purple stripes outside and dark purple stripes inside; blade triangular ovate, 7-10 cm long, 4-5 cm wide, acute to acuminate to the apex. Spadix 3-4 cm long in male, appendage filiform, 40-60 cm long, long exerted, the upper portion bent downward and pendulous, the lower portion gradually thickened to form a smooth long cylindrical enlargement, then gradually narrowed toward the floriferous part.

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Fig. 1. *Arisaema thunbergii* Blume subsp. *urashima* (Hara) Ohashi & J. Murata. 1, 2. habit and tuber; 3. inflorescence; 4. apex of cataphyll; 5. male spadix; 6. male flower from the upper part of spadix, front view and lateral view; 7. male flower from the lower part of spadix, lateral and front view. (Wang 6747A).
Distribution: Japan.


The specific epithet urashima is derived from a Japanese trade name of fishing line which describes the long pendulous, thread-like spadix appendage. This character can be used to distinguish this taxon from other Taiwanese Arisaema. This new record is closely similar to A. heterophyllum Blume in having pedate leaves and a long exerted spadix-appendage. They belong to the same section Tortuosa (Murata, 1984). However, the spadix-appendage of A. heterophyllum Blume is erect, never pendulous, and shorter and thicker than that of A. thunbergii subsp. urashima. The two taxa can be easily distinguished by the following key:

1a. Spathe green without dark stripes; spadix-appendage erect, upper portion never pendulous; both pseudostem and peduncle longer than petiole; terminal leaflet much smaller than the adjacent lateral ones .............
   ............................................................................. A. heterophyllum

1b. Spathe white to pale yellow with dark stripes; spadix-appendage long filiform, upper portion pendulous; both pseudostem and peduncle shorter than petiole; terminal leaflet as large as or larger than the adjacent lateral ones ..................................................... A. thunbergii subsp. urashima

This new record is mainly confined to the mountainous region from elevation of 500 m to 1000 m in Eastern Taiwan. They scarcely grow under a broad-leaved forest characterized by Lauraceae and Fagaceae, such as Persea japonica Sieb. ex Sieb. & Zucc., Cinnamomum insularimentanatum Hayata., Cyclobalanopsis glauca (Thunb.) Oerst. and Pasania kawakamii (Hayata) Schott. Other associates include Turpinia ternata Nakai, Ilex ficoidea Hemsl., Acer serrulatum Hayata, Viburnum taitoense Hayata and Alnus formosana (Burk.) Makino. Two other Arisaema, A. formosana (Hayata) Hayata and A. heterophyllum Blume, are also found at the same locality.

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LITERATURE CITED


台灣天南星屬之新記錄植物

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摘要

本文報導臺灣產天南星屬之一新記錄植物—湖島天南星（Arisaema thunbergii Blume subsp. urashima (Hara) Ohashi & J. Murata），除描述形態特徵與生育地環境外，並提供検索表以與臺灣產同屬另一近緣種—羽葉天南星（A. heterophyllum Blume）區別。