

## A NEW VARIETY OF *ARISAEMA CILIATUM* (ARACEAE)

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### INTRODUCTION

In September 1981, seeds of *Arisaema* were harvested by Carla Teune, Hortus Botanicus Leiden, near Liuba, area of Mt Minya Konka (Gonga Shan), Szechuan (Sichuan) Province, China, at 3600 m altitude. During the trip, with Roy Lancaster and others, no pressed herbarium specimen was collected. Michael Hoog, who runned a well known Dutch Nursery, was given five lots of seed numbered CT 368 to CT 372, all provisionally labeled *A. consanguineum* Schott. All numbers were collected the same day along the same path. After the seedlings flowered, it appeared there was no reason to keep them separate; they were merged and distributed in the trade as *Arisaema* CT 369 (Antoine Hoog, 1998, private communication).

The following Latin description of *A. ciliatum* H. Li var. *liubaense* var. nov. corresponds to specimens widespread in culture as *Arisaema* CT 369. As well known, the name of *A. ciliatum* H. Li refers to the presence of some cilia along the mouth of the spathe-tube (Fig. 1). The spadix is apically softly spiny and a few neuters are in general present at the base of the appendage. The colour of the spathe is described by Li as “purple with light green conspicuous stripes” (Wu & Li, 1979), but in the wild the prevailing colour of the spathe varies from red to green and, moreover, the species showed itself later to be stoloniferous. *Arisaema* CT 369 also shares this character with *A. ciliatum* and not with *A. consanguineum* (which does not develop stolons). The link made previously between *Arisaema* CT 369 and *A. consanguineum* has to be discarded. *Arisaema* CT 369 falls into the range of *A. ciliatum*. Nevertheless, *Arisaema* CT 369 is easily differentiated from the typical *A. ciliatum* as some reliable differences are visible in the spathe. The main difference is found along the margin of the tube mouth: in *Arisaema* CT 369, the cilia of the typical species are lacking along the margin of the tube mouth even if this margin is not perfectly smooth, the spadix-appendix is more exserted from the tube and its extremity is not spiny (Fig. 2, 3). As opposed to the typical species, one can add that the colour of the spathe is invariably purple with greenish white longitudinal stripes. Up to now, no seedlings with a greenish spathe have been observed. These characters are stable and Carla Teune’s specimens come true from seed.

*Arisaema ciliatum* was originally described from Yunnan but it appeared later to be also distributed in Sichuan, as seen by one of the authors (G. Gusman). On the other hand, specimens identical to Carla Teune’s CT 369 have been observed in Yunnan, near Heishui (G. Gusman). Accordingly, distributions of *A. ciliatum* and its var. *liubaense* overlap, a fact that justifies the choice of a varietal status.

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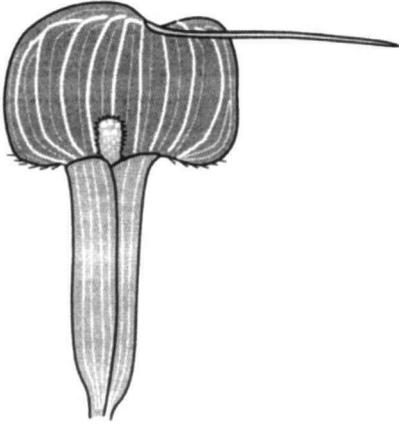


Fig. 1. Inflorescence of *Arisaema ciliatum* H. Li. One notices the presence of cilia along the margin and the spiny spadix-appendix at apex.

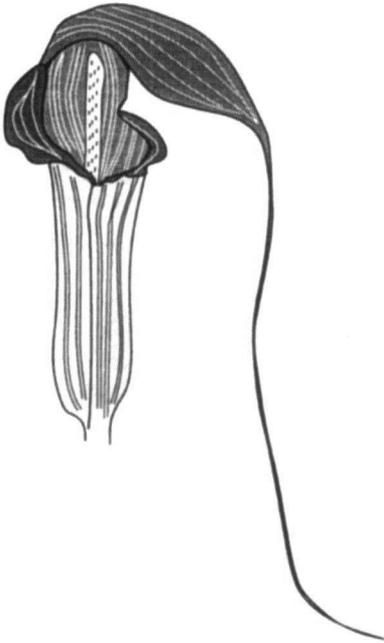


Fig. 2. Inflorescence of a typical *Arisaema ciliatum* H. Li var. *liubaense* Gusman & Gouda grown from the CT 369 seed collection from Sichuan.

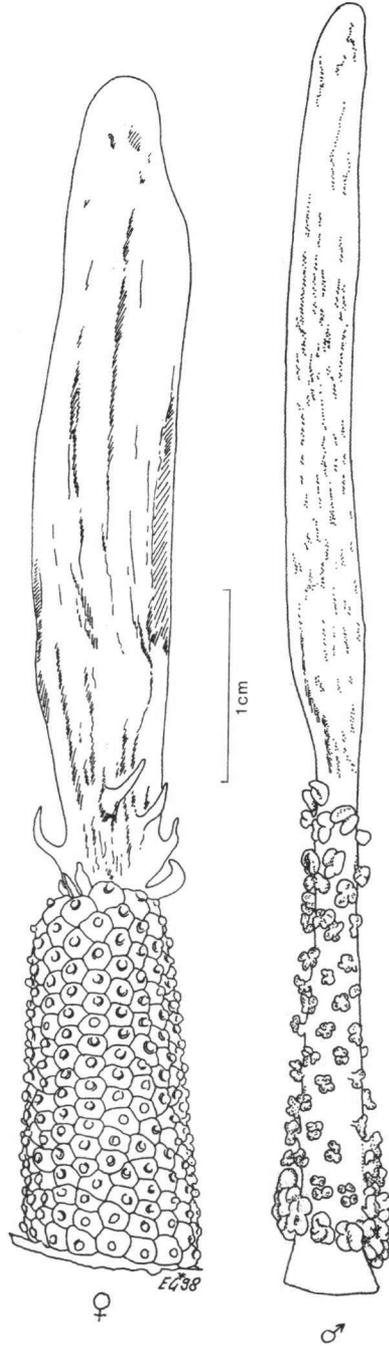


Fig. 3. Close-up of male and female spadicules of *Arisaema ciliatum* H. Li var. *liubaense* Gusman & Gouda.

***Arisaema ciliatum* H. Li var. *liubaense* Gusman & Gouda, var. nov.**

Sect. *Sinarisaema* — Fig. 2, 3

Ab *Arisaema ciliatum* H. Li, spathae fauce margine non ciliata, spadix appendix apice glabra et e spathae fauce leviter superans differt. — Typus: *Teune 369* (holo U; iso L), near Liuba, area of Mt Minya Konka (Gonga Shan), Szechuan (Sichuan) Province, China, at 3600 m alt., 15-IX-1981.

From the type variety differing in the following characters: Spathe not ciliate; spadix-appendix more exerted from the spathe-tube, glabrous, not echinate.

*Other material studied:* Yunnan, Heishui, alt. 3000 m, 1992 (*Gusman GG92118b*, BR).

REFERENCE

Wu, C.-Y. & H. Li. 1979. Araceae, Lemnaceae. Fl. Reipubl. Pop. Sinicae, Vol. 13, 2: 193.