

distinctis, membranacea; petiolus 4-9 cm longus, glaber, obsolete alatus vel canaliculatus. Inflorescentia terminalis, paniculata, 6-7 cm longa, parce puberula; pedicellus 0.5-1 mm longus. Calycis tubus campanulato-tubulosus, 2-2.2 mm longus, parce puberulus vel glaber, limbus 4-dentatus, dentibus 4, triangularibus 0.5 mm longis. Petala 4, ovata, 1.5 mm longa, 1.2 mm lata, supra puberula. Stamina 8, aequalia, filamentis 2.5 mm longis, antheris 2.5 mm longis, lanceolato-oblongis, apice obtusis, connectivo basi inappendiculato. Ovarium calycistubo septis 8 adnatum. Stylus filiformis, 5-6 mm longus, stigmate punctiformi.

Distribution: Endemic in Malaya.

Specimens examined: MALAYA: Perak, Larut hill, alt. 666 m-1000 m, *Curtis* 3719 (Holotype K); Thamping hills, *Ridley* 114335 (K); Kedah-Perak boundary, Cunong Bintang, sine numero (K).

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ARIOPSIS PELTATA NIMMO, FIRST REPORT OF A POORLY KNOWN AROID, FROM KAMENG DIST., ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

During a recent exploration in Kameng, a cluster of curious diminutive conch like spathes, each enclosing a clavate spadix, growing in a moist shady patch below some rocks, naturally attracted attention. The bunch consisting of 18-20 corms, was collected, and transplanted in pots, at 'Woodlands' experimental garden, Shillong, where in due course, the spathes all shrivelled and dropped, as also the clavate spadix, leaving at the top of the scape a few small fruits. While the inflorescence was developing into the infrutescence, the corms were putting

out stump-like short stolons, as also young buds which later spread out, each into a subcordate leaf. With both the vegetative and floral phase of the plant studied, it was possible to identify this peculiar little plant as *Ariopsis peltata* Nimmo. In the course of establishing this identity, it was found that like many other members of the Araceae, this also is poorly known. Further, it has a discontinuous distribution in Burma and in India, so far known from the western ghats in the south and from Sikkim in the north. Only one collection (that too incom-

plete) is known from Goalpara district of Assam. This is the first report of its presence in Arunachal Pradesh.

Ariopsis peltata Nimmo ex Grah. Cat. Bomb.

Pl. 252. 1839. Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 6: 519. 1893; Fischer, Fl. Madras 3: 1102. 1956 (reprint. ed.); Engler, A. et Krause, K. Pfreich. 71: 131. 1957 (reprint. ed.); Cooke, Fl. Bomb. 3: 338. 1958 (reprint. ed.). *A. protanthera* N. E. Br. in Rep. R. Gard. Kew 57. 1877; *f. protanthera* (N. E. Br.) Engler, A. et Krause, K. Pfreich. 71: 131. 1957 (reprint. ed.); *f. coetanea* Engler, A. et Krause, K. l.c. *Remusatia vivipera* Wight III. t. 900. 1847.

Terrestrial, perennial, monoecious herbs. *Corms* 0.5-2.0 cm in diam., pale brown, green when young, globose or subglobose, warty, with many slender root fibres; top depressed; stolons few 0.5-2.2 cm long radiating from the corm after flowering, simple, pale

brown, swelling at tips to produce new corms which produce *leaves*. Leaves 1-4, appearing after flowering or along with spadices [only in Kameng Collections and Sikkim Himalaya (Lister's collection) flowers preceded leaves]; petioles 3.5-24.5 cm long, 2-3 mm thick near the base, slender, suberect, peltate; laminae 2.0-23.0 cm long, 1.5-22.0 cm broad, broadly ovate to suborbicular, sometimes broader than long, membranaceous, light green beneath, glossy along the nerves, green above; base emarginate to cordate; tip rounded or acute; margin entire or broadly undulate. *Peduncles* 1-2 (sometimes 4), erect or suberect, 1.5-10.0 cm long, (sometimes 13.5 cm long), 1-2 mm thick. *Spathes* 0.5-2.5 cm long, cymbiform, open from base, violet or deep purple with longitudinal veins and purple dots, absent in fruits; tube absent. *Spadices* 0.4-2.0 cm long; appendage absent; perianth absent, male and female

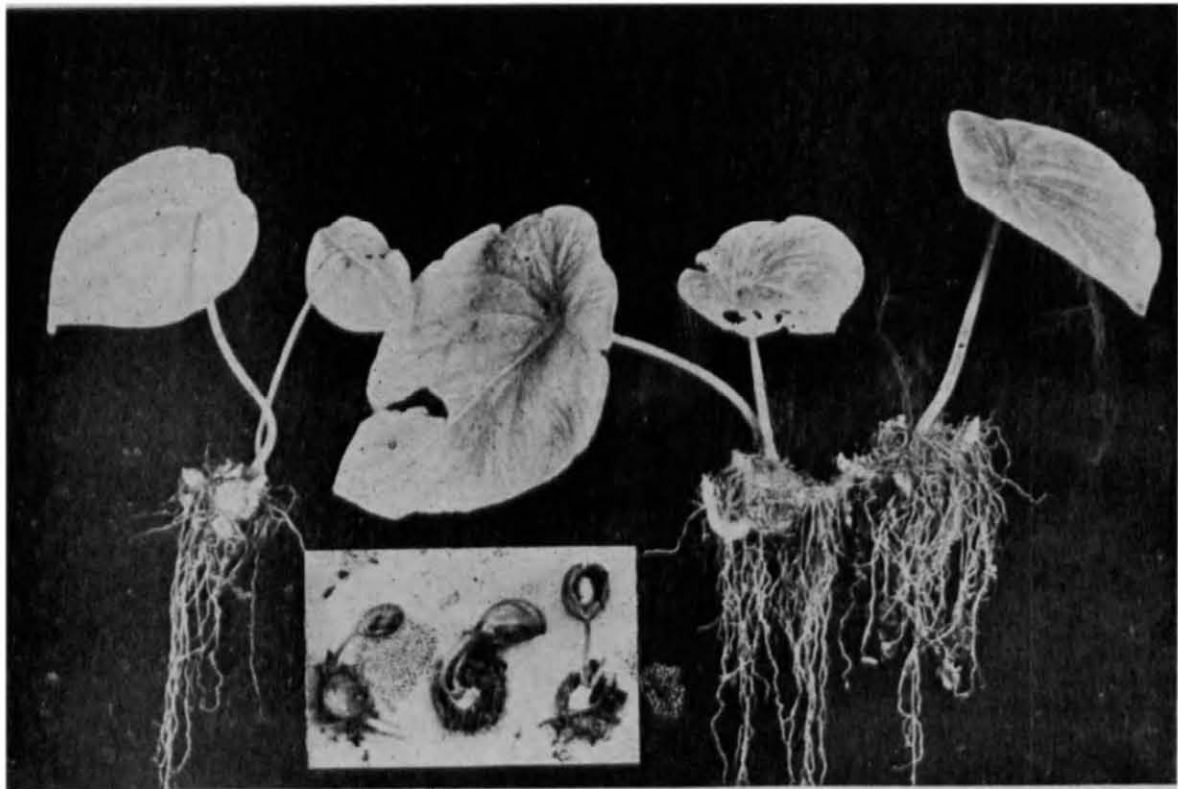
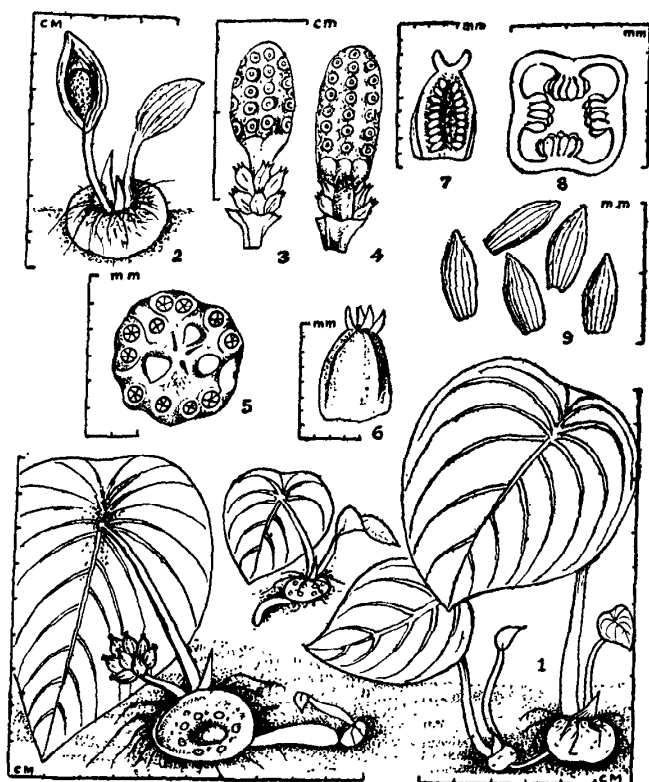


Plate 1. *Ariopsis peltata* Nimmo—Vegetative phase. The inset shows 3 spadices.



Ariopsis peltata Nimmo

Figs. 1-9: 1. Habit—vegetative phase. 2. Habit—reproductive phase, scapes, in front and back view. 3. Spadix—front view. 4. Back view. 5. T. S. of spadix. 6. Ovary. 7. L. S. of ovary. 8. T. S. of ovary. 9. Seeds.

floriferous zones not separated by a neuter zone. *Male fls.*, embedded in the tissue of the spadix, creamy; anthers connate in groups of 3 each 2 loculed surrounding a pore into which all open; *ovaries* secund, oblong, deep purple, compact, sessile, angled, 4-7 in one inflorescence (sometimes 11), 1-loculed; placentas 4-6, parietal; ovules many .5-1.0 mm long, orthotropous; stigma sessile, 4-5 fid, stellate, yellow; fruit baccate 2-6 angled; seeds many, pendulous, albuminous, 1.0-1.5 mm long, linear oblong, apex obtuse, faintly attenuate; testa thick, tegmen thin, albumen copious, embryo axile, minute, lengthwise within the albumen.

Flowers and fruits: April-August.

On the basis of contemporaneous or otherwise of the leaves and spathes, Engler had

recognised two *forma*—*f. protanthera* with the spathes produced before the leaves and *f. co-aetanea* with the leaves and spathes together. Our study of the herbarium material and live collections indicate that such a distinction is untenable.

Specimens examined: ARUNACHAL PRADESH: Kameng, Sessa, R. S. Rao 53713; Hajra 53991 (ASSAM). ASSAM: Goalpara, Tukreshari Hill, A. C. Chatterjee s.n. (acc. nos. 496916, 496934), (CAL). The locality name as noted by Engler (Jakershari hills), is not correct. He apparently misread the handwriting on the label. KARNATAKA: North Kanara, Karwar and Beleker, W. A. Talbot 494 (BSI). KERALA: Wynad, Beddome s.n. (acc. nos. 73217, 73218), (MH); Arivikarai Thody, V. Narayanaswami 897; South Malabar, Karme, C. E. C. Fischer 2821 (CAL); Palghat, Dhoni R.F., Joseph 17222; Mukkali forest, E. Vajravelu 32048 (MH). MAHARASHTRA: Nasik, Tondwal, Cherian 111178; Poona, Lonauli, Venkata Reddi 98711, 99250; 99290, 99325; Valvanda R. F., Jowhar range, Billore 116399; Roha, Damb 542; Ambe ghat, Shevade s.n. (no acc. no.), (BSI). SIKKIM: No precise locality, King 2252, Rongtong, Ribu & Rhomoo 6242. No precise locality, Lister s.n. (acc. no. 496928), (CAL).

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