

Spatha with a convolute persistent base, the lamina long lanceolate deciduous. Flowers unisexual, the females at the base of the spadix separated from the males by short ovoid neutral organs without any bare interval, the barren terminal appendage above the males usually very short and sometimes obsolete. Perianth none. Anthers usually 4 or 2, 2-celled (or 8 or 4, 1-celled) the cells opening in terminal pores. Ovary 1-celled, with several, often numerous ovules, on a parietal placenta; stigma peltate, on a very short thick style, or almost sessile. Berries small, enclosed in the persistent base of the spatha, with several often numerous seeds. Albumen copious.—Scapes and leaves radical, the lamina often very large, cordate or peltate, undivided.

The genus as limited by Schott consists of very few species from the warmer regions of the Old World. The two Australian species are also widely dispersed in tropical Asia and one of them is very extensively cultivated.

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|---|----------------------------|
| Leaves peltate. Ovules numerous . . . . .                   | 1. <i>C. antiquorum</i> .  |
| Leaves broadly hastate-cordate. Ovules rather few . . . . . | 2. <i>C. macrorrhiza</i> . |

1. **C. antiquorum**, Schott, *Meletem.* 18; *Prod. Syst. Aroid.* 138.—Leaves ovate, more or less peltate and cordate, often above 1 ft. long and broad, the primary veins pinnate and pedate at the base of the leaf, the transverse veinlets arcuate and confluent in the centre of each interval. Persistent convolute base of the spatha ovoid-oblong, usually about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, the lamina 6 in. long or more. Spadix much shorter, the female base  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 in. long, the neutral part shorter, the male portion rather longer, the terminal appendage much shorter and sometimes obsolete. Stigmas almost sessile.—F. Muell. *Fragm.* viii. 187; Wight,  *Ic. t.* 786; *Caladium acre*, R. Br. *Prod.* 336.

**Queensland.** Endeavour River, *Banks and Solander*; Rockingham Bay, *Dallachy*. The species is much cultivated in tropical Asia and Africa, and often gathered as wild, but its real native country is not well ascertained.

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ARACEAE

*Colocasia antiquorum*

# 1. TYPHONIUM, Schott.

ARACEAE

Spatha contracted above the convolute base, the lamina broad, spreading or recurved. Flowers unisexual, the females at the base of the spadix, with subulate neutral organs immediately above them, the males separated by a bare interval, the spadix terminating in a long thick fleshy appendage. Perianth none. Anthers 2-celled, sessile in pairs (appearing like 4 1-celled anthers), the cells opening in terminal pores (or in species not Australian in slits continued to the base). Ovary sessile or nearly so, 1-celled, with a single erect ovule; stigma peltate, sessile or shortly stipitate. Berry 1-seeded. Albumen copious.—Herbs with a hard tuberous rhizome. Leaves entire or 3-lobed, radical as well as the scape.

The genus is generally spread over the warmer regions of the Old World. It differs from the European group now considered as the typical *Arum*, chiefly in the solitary ovules. The Australian species are, as far as known, endemic.

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| Leaves entire.  |                             |
| Leaves linear, 1 ft. long or more . . . . .           | 1. <i>T. liliifolium</i> .  |
| Leaves ovate or lanceolate, 3 or 4 in. long . . . . . | 2. <i>T. alismifolium</i> . |
| Leaves 3-lobed.                                       |                             |
| Lobes lanceolate or ovate-acuminate . . . . .         | 3. <i>T. Brownii</i> .      |
| Lobes linear . . . . .                                | 4. <i>T. angustilobum</i> . |

4. **T. angustilobum**, *F. Muell. Fragm.* x. 66.—Leaf-lobes 3, narrow-linear, 5 to 7 in. long and 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lines broad. All the other characters given apply entirely to the *T. Brownii* var. *eliosurum*.

**Queensland.** Gilbert River, *Armitage*. A single specimen, of which I have been unable to examine the spike.

1. **T. liliifolium**, *F. Muell.*; *Schott, Prod. Syst. Aroid.* 107.—Leaves linear throughout, 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. long, including the petiole, which is sheathing at the base and gradually passes into a lamina, scarcely broader and tapering to a point. Scape about 6 in. high. Spatha with a nearly globular convolute base, the lamina ovate-lanceolate, nearly 6 in. long, tapering to a point. Female spike at the base of the spadix ovoid, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. Neutral organs filiform, recurved, rather numerous. Male spike after a bare interval of about 1 in. cylindrical, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. Appendage considerably thicker, obliquely truncate at the base, narrow conical, acuminate, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. Berry ovoid-globular.—*F. Muell. Fragm. viii. 187.*

**N. Australia.** Victoria River, *F. Mueller.* The reference given by Schott and copied by *F. Mueller* to *Hook. Kew. Miscell.* 1856, 321, is not quite correct. This plant was only named in manuscript labels by *F. Mueller*, but is mentioned without a specific name in *Hook. Kew. Journ. viii. 329*, in a paper of *F. Mueller's* commencing at p. 321.