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A NEW *ANTHURIUM* FROM EASTERN ECUADOR

*Michael Madison**

Anthurium superbum Madison, sp. nov. (Plate 1)

A speciebus ceteris sectionis *Pachyneurii* Schott foliis erectis, pedunculis brevis, et spadicibus cremeis differt.

Rosulate epiphyte with the leaves held vertically erect. Stem 3-4 cm thick, 4-8 cm long, obscured by leaf bases and cataphylls, the internodes 2-4 mm long, emitting abundant, succulent, rose-colored roots 5-7 mm thick, some of them growing upward. Bicarinate prophyll dark green, 5-6 cm long, marcescent; cataphylls 8-10 cm long, dark green, marcescent. Leaves 8-10 in number, involute in the bud, erect, the margins of adjacent leaves overlapping. Petiole 4-12 cm long, dark green, in full-sized leaves with 5-9 longitudinal ribs, sheathing for 1/3 to 1/2 the length; geniculum 1-1.5 cm long, yellow-green. Lamina 45-65 cm long, 13-17 cm broad, narrowly elliptic, thick, leathery, stiff, the immature leaves dark purple below and greenish-black above, becoming uniformly dark vinous-green, dull, bullate, the margins revolute, the costa prominent on both sides, the primary lateral veins 7-10, furrowed above. Peduncle terete, stout, dark green, 7-12 cm long, 1-1.2 cm thick. Spathe lanceolate-triangular, green, reflexing, persistent, 2.5-3 cm wide, 8-9 cm long, shorter than the spadix. Spadix in flower cream faintly suffused with purple, glaucous, cylindric, 8-15 cm long, 9-12 mm thick. Berries lavender, the upper 1/4 white, obovoid, 6-7 mm long, 2.5 mm thick, with a sharp apiculum, 2-seeded.

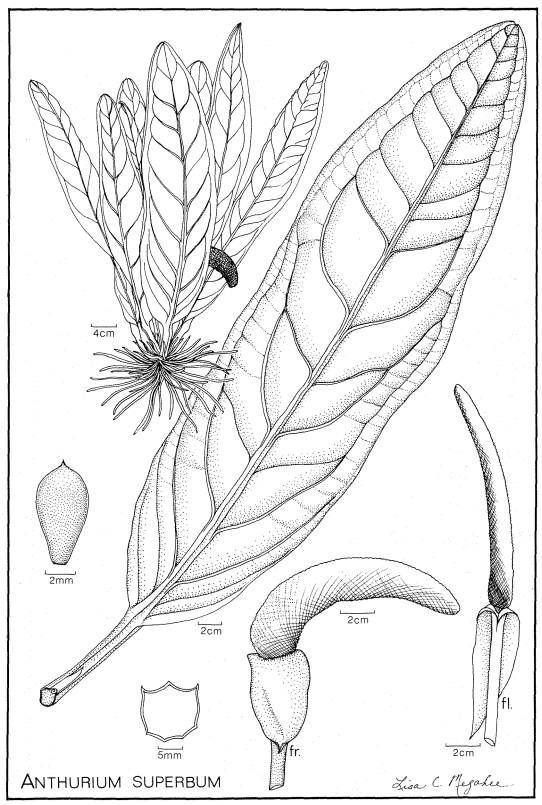

Plate 1

TYPE: *ECUADOR:* NAPO: innundated forest on the south side of the Rio Napo in the vicinity of Primavera; live plant collected by C. H. Dodson et al., cultivated at SEL, specimen prepared from cultivated plant *Madison 5516* (HOLOTYPE: SEL: ISOTYPES TO BE DISTRIBUTED: QCA, F, K, US, U).

Anthurium superbum is native to seasonally inundated forest along the Rio Napo where it grows epiphytically above high water level. The dark purple-green bullate leaves held stiffly erect are very striking, and unlike any other anthurium. A large crop of seedlings is now being grown at SEL for distribution to botanic gardens and horticulturists.

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