

An Unusual New Species of *Homalomena* (Araceae) from New Guinea

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Abstract

Homalomena impudica Herscovitch & A. Hay is described, illustrated and inserted into the latest key to *Homalomena* species of New Guinea.

Homalomena Schott was revised for New Guinea by Hay (1999). An overlooked specimen on loan to NSW from LAE represents a very distinctive undescribed species.

Homalomena impudica* Herscovitch & A. Hay *sp. nov.

Homalomena tenuispadix Engl. simulans sed inflorescentia femina spatham aequanti, inflorescentia mascula clavata tota exserta differt. - **Typus:** Papua New Guinea, West Sepik Province, Vanimo, Ossima, 28 Jan 1969, *H. Streimann & A. Kairo NGF 39239* (holo, LAE).

Erect multi-stemmed herb to c. 30 cm high. *Stem* condensed, 1.5 cm diam. *Leaves* to 8 together; *petiole* longer than blade, 17–32 cm long, glabrous, slender, sheathing in lower 6–7 cm; *blade* dull green above, green below, glabrous, sagittate to ovate-cordate, 14–19 cm long, anterior lobe 12–16.5 cm, c. 8 cm wide, posterior lobes triangular to rounded, 2.5–4 cm long; midrib more prominent abaxially, with c. 8 pairs of lateral veins diverging at c. 45°. *Inflorescences* to 9 together, each subtended by a narrow triangular papery cataphyll to 4 cm long; peduncle erect, later declinate, 4.5–6 cm long, longer than spadix. *Spathe* slightly constricted in bud, then narrow cylindrical, 2.0–2.8 cm long, 5 mm diam., with a conspicuous rigid darker sometimes reflexed apiculum 2–3 mm long. *Spadix* 2.7–3.6 cm long, much exceeding the spathe at anthesis, stipitate for c. 5 mm; female zone equalling to exceeding the spathe, 2.0–2.4 cm long; pistils very widely scattered along axis of female zone, becoming loosely and irregularly whorled distally, globose, c. 1 mm diam., infrapistillar staminodes absent; stigma button-like, sessile, 0.3 mm across; male zone narrow oblong-ovoid, 0.7–1.1 cm

long, whitish, fully exerted from spathe; male flowers (-)2-merous; stamens more-or-less oblong to irregularly polygonal from above, c. 1 x 0.3–0.5 mm, the thecae overtopped by connective. *Fruit* unknown.

Distribution: Malesia – New Guinea, Papua New Guinea, West Sepik Province (known only from the type locality).

Habitat: In a dry stream bed in lowland rain forest at c. 30 m alt.

Notes: This species resembles *Homalomena tenuispadix* Engl., but differs in the greatly elongated and lax female zone which equals to exceeds the spathe, and in the completely exerted and somewhat clavate male zone. The inflorescence at first resembles that of *Schismatoglottis* after the male zone has been exposed by the fall of the spathe limb, until it is noted that the spathe, as typical for *Homalomena*, is fully persistent.

While some New Guinea species of *Homalomena*, such as *H. davidiana* A. Hay and others (see Hay 1999), characteristically have the male zone partially exerted from the spathe after anthesis, this species extends the entire male zone beyond the apex of the spathe prior to anthesis. This characteristic, as distinct from the state where the male zone is exposed by the spathe being wide open during anthesis, appears not to be recorded for any other species in the genus.

Field notes describe the flower (sic) as white and the fruit green. The specimen includes fragments of declinate fruiting peduncle, but the infructescence is not present. It is unclear whether or not the colour observations refer to the spathe at different stages.

The specific epithet, meaning lewd or shameless, alludes to the fully exposed male zone of the spadix.

Homalomena impudica can be inserted into the key provided by Hay (1999) as follows:

10a. Spathe tip \pm hood-forming; spadix contained within the spathe after anthesis; peduncle much shorter than the petioles **H. lauterbachii**

10b. Spathe with the tip reflexed; spadix exerted from the spathe during and/or after anthesis; peduncle c. 1/3–1/2 the length of the petioles 11

11a. Spadix with the male zone clavate and completely exerted from the spathe at anthesis **H. impudica**

11b. Spadix with the male zone cylindric-tapering, not exceeding the spathe at anthesis, partially exerted from spathe after anthesis **H. tenuispadix**

12 etc. = 11 etc. in Hay (1999)

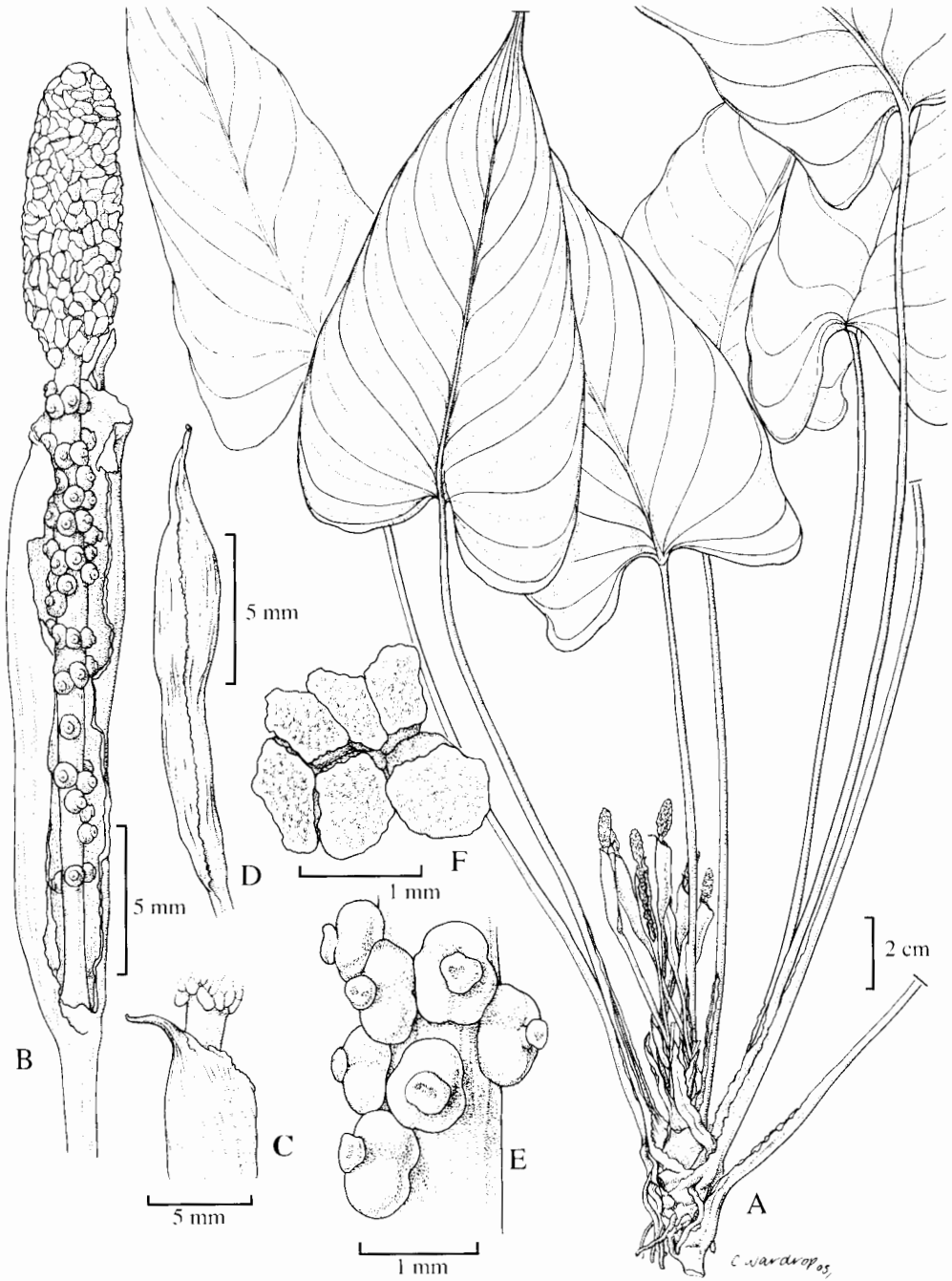


Figure 1. *Homalomena impudica* **Herscovitch & A. Hay.**
A. habit; B. inflorescence with part of spathe removed; C. tip of spathe; D. inflorescence in bud; E. pistils; F. stamens. *Streimann & Kairo NGF 39239.*

Acknowledgements

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Reference

Hay, A. 1999. Revision of *Homalomena* (Araceae-Homalomeneae) in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and Solomon Islands. *Blumea*, **44**: 41–71.