

A SPADIX IN THE AXIL OF THE SPATHE OF XANTHOSOMA.

In making preparations of the flowers of *Xanthosoma ? violaceum*, Schott, for the Singapore herbarium, an interesting abnormality was detected, for in a large spathe two spadixes were found, the position of the second being that of a branch in the axil of the spathe. The spathe in question was 17 inches long; the normally present spadix 12 inches long: but the abnormally produced spadix was only three inches, being too short to pass beyond the constriction of the spathe which had forced it into a curve. Its flowers were younger than those of the normally produced spadix, but apparently normal. On their lesser age rests an argument supporting the view that the abnormally produced spadix is a branch in the axil of the spathe; for if were not of a lower order than the normal spadix its flowers ought to be of the same age.

The abnormal specimen is part of No. 276 now in the Herbarium of the Botanic Gardens.

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GRAMMATOPHYLLUM FLOWERING IN JANUARY.

In the Agricultural Bulletin of the Straits and Federated Malay States, VI., 1907, page 49, Mr. H. N. Ridley recorded the flowering of *Grammatophyllum speciosum*, Blume, in the Botanic Gardens, in January of that year, the usual flowering in August and September having been omitted in 1906. The same phenomenon has been repeated; for this orchid did not flower in 1913, but flowered in Singapore very freely in January and February, 1914. It was seen to be in flower in the Kukob district of Johore at the same time. In Penang it flowered as usual in July and August, 1913.

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SOME PERTINENT PUBLICATIONS.

THE IMPERIAL BUREAU OF APPLIED ENTOMOLOGY. "In the summer of 1911, when the Prime Ministers of the Self-Governing Dominions were present in England, they were invited by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to discuss with the Entomological Research Committee (appointed by the Colonial Office, in 1909), certain proposal for furthering and co-ordinating the investigation of injurious insects throughout the Empire. By this meeting it was unanimously agreed that the establishment of a central organisation for this purpose was desirable, and consequently a tentative scheme was submitted for the consideration of the Colonial Governments concerned.