

## A New Species of *Arisaema* (Araceae) From Western Ghats of Southern India

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Our intensive survey of aroids of Western Ghats in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Goa for the last 10 years has resulted in the discovery of three new species of aroids. Of the three species, *Arisaema sahyadrica* Yadav, Patil, and Bachulkar [*Willdenowia* 23:177–179, 1993.] and *Amorphophallus konkanensis* Hettterscheid, Yadav & Patil [*Blumea* 39:289–294, 1994.] have already been described, and one more new species of *Arisaema* is described here.

***Arisaema sivadasanii*** Yadav, Patil & Janarthanam sp. nov.

Type—India, Maharashtra, Amboli, 10 September 1995. Holotype, CAL, *Yadav-4688*; Isotype, BLATT *Yadav-4695A*; BSI, *Yadav-4695B*; SUK *Yadav-4688C*, *4688D*.

*Arisaema sivadasanii* Yadav, Patil & Janarthanam *Arisaema* tortuosa et *A. neglecta* aemulans; differt appendice breve et crasso.

Description—Cormatous monoecious or dioecious herb, corms to  $7 \times 3$  cm diam., globose, globose-depressed; roots fibrous arising from the top of the corm. Leaf usually solitary; cataphylls 3–4, to  $35 \times 5$  cm, narrowed at base; petiole to 150 cm long, 3.5 cm diam., variously mottled with green, white, and dark purple sheathing at base; blades pedatisect,

leaflets 7–9, to  $30 \times 11$  cm, bright green above, glaucous below, penninerved, sessile or subsessile, acuminate with single intramarginal vein; margin crisped. Inflorescence bisexual or unisexual and then male; peduncle shorter or slightly longer than the petiole, to 1.5 cm diam., green to dark purple; spathe to 17 cm long; tube to  $7 \times 2.5$  cm with vertical white translucent stripes; limb to  $11 \times 6.5$  cm, grass-green, dilated and curved at throat, hoodlike, ovate, acuminate; staminate portion of spadix comparatively smaller in size; bisexual spadix to 20 cm long, differentiated into basal pistillate portion ca. 2 cm in length, a staminate portion ca. 3 cm in length and an appendage usually about 10 cm long (rarely to 15 cm in male spadices), 0.8–1 cm diam., thicker at base, tapering towards apex, bent horizontally then protruding above and outside the limb, dark brown to dark blue to green; pistillate flowers many, compactly arranged; ovary green, ovoid with ca. 10 basal ovules; style absent; stigma capitate, white; staminate flowers stalked; stalk 2–3 mm long; anther lobes 4–8 per stamen, white; neuters absent. Berry ca. 6 mm diam., red when ripe; seeds 6–10, light brown to gray in color.

Flowering—August to October. Fruiting: October to November.

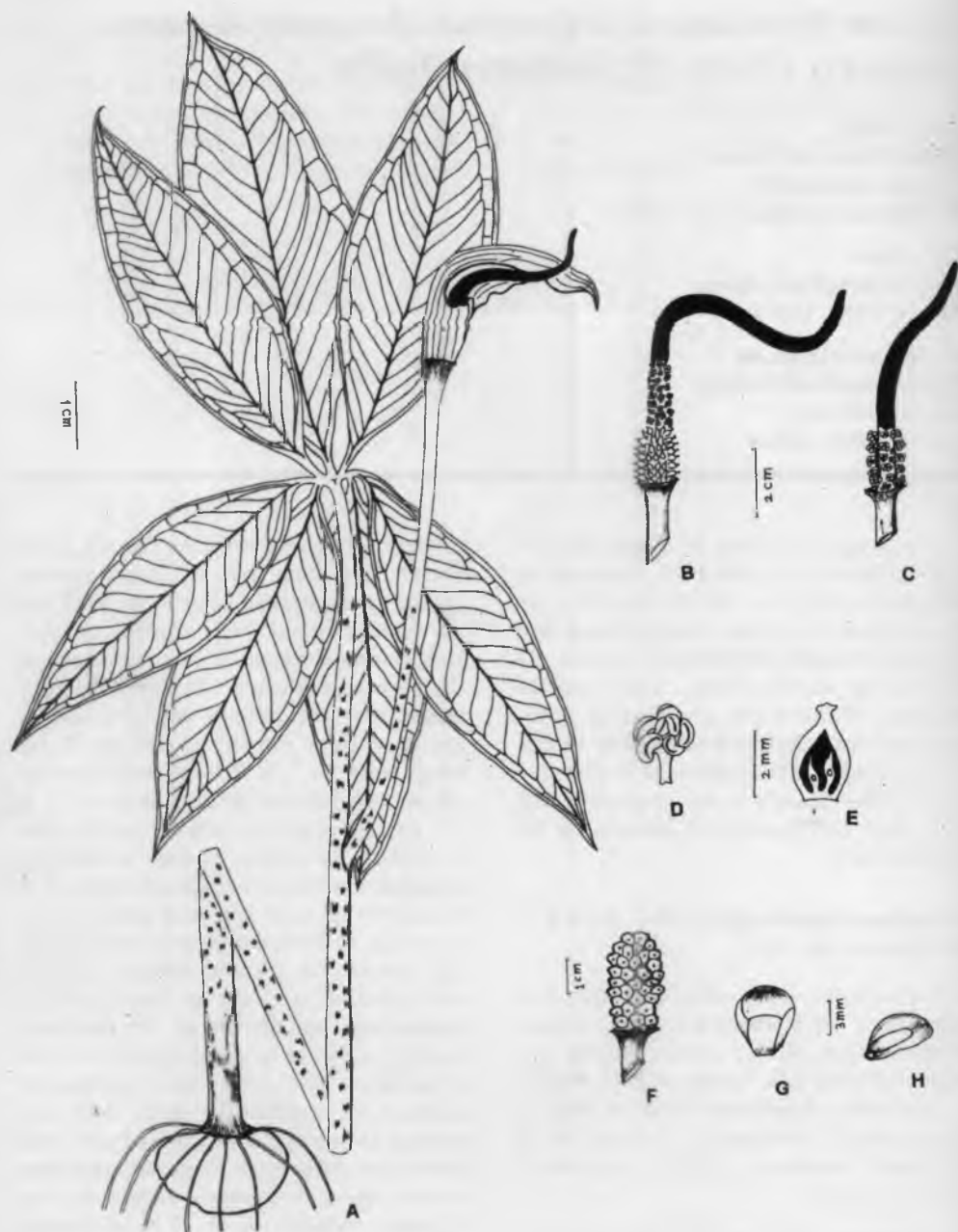


Fig. 1. *Arisaema sivadasanii* Yadav, Patil & Janarthanan. A: Habit; B: Bisexual spadix; C: Staminate spadix; D: Staminate flower; E: Pistillate Flower (L. S.); F: Infructescence; G: Berry; H: Seed.



Fig. 2. Plant with inflorescence. Fig. 3. Close up of inflorescence with part of spathe removed. Fig. 4. Two Bisexual spadices, male spadix, and fruiting spadix.

Note—The species grows along roadsides and forest borders at higher altitudes (500–600 m) in Western Ghats. It prefers partially shady places in forest areas. Other species such as *Arisaema neglectum*, *A.*

*sabyadrica*, and *A. tortuosum* also grow side by side in the same habitat.

*Arisaema sivadasanii* closely resembles *Arisaema neglectum* and *A. tortuosa* in its habitat preferences, general vegetative

morphology, and spadix architecture but differs in having a short thick appendage which projects only slightly out of the spathe limb and by its late, prolonged flowering from August to October. It also differs from *A. tortuosum* in possessing usually a single leaf. In *Arisaema neglectum* and *A. tortuosum* the appendage is longer and is long-exserted beyond the spathe limb, tapering like a sigmoidally curved rat-tail.

The species is named after Dr. M. Sivadasan, an expert on southern Indian aroids.

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