

**SYNGONIUM ODUBERI (ARACEAE): A NEW SPECIES
FROM THE OSA PENINSULA OF COSTA RICA**

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Syngonium oduberi T. Ray, sp. nov.

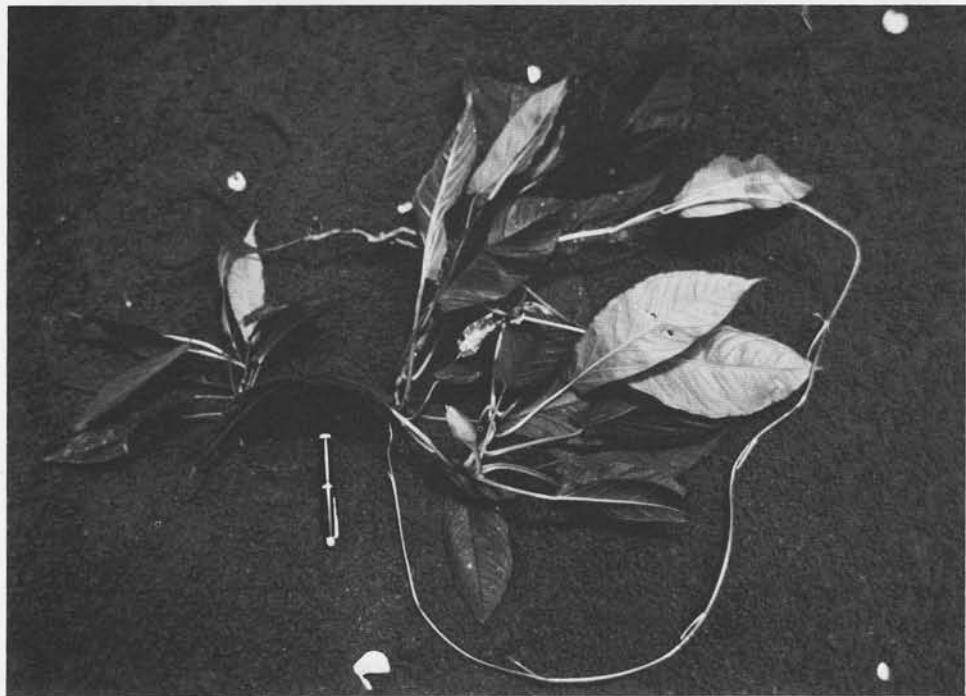
TYPE: Costa Rica: Osa Peninsula, Corcovado National Park, *Ray 4*, (Holotype GH, sheet 1; isotype, GH, sheet 2).

A speciebus cum petiolo 6-10 cm. longo, vagina ubi complanata usque ad 1 cm. lata plerumque aliquantum infra lamina terminata apice acute, lamina 14-23 cm. longa, pedunculo fructifero circa 4 cm. longo, et tubo spathae circa 4 cm. longo, differt.

Juvenile stems trailing, internodes 4-7 mm long, 3 mm wide; leaves much like those of the adult but smaller and narrower, petioles 4.5-5.5 cm long, blades 13-15 cm long, 3.5-4.5 cm wide. **Adult** plants with stems closely appressed to tree, internodes 1-2 cm long, ca 6 mm wide; leaves with petioles 6-10 cm long, sheathed throughout, except the last .5-1 cm, the sheath free-ending and apiculate at apex; the apical portion flattened adaxially with a medial rib. **Blades** simple, oblong-elliptic, gradually acuminate at the apex, slightly constricted above basal lobes (less so than on juvenile blades), 18-23 cm long, 7.5-9.5 cm wide, basal lobes bluntly acute, 8-13 mm long; primary lateral veins 12-14 on each side, sunken above, raised beneath, the tertiary veins prominent. **Latex** not milky, though slightly orange in mature stems. **Infructescence** pendent, 7.5 cm long, peduncle 3.5 cm, fruiting spadix 4 cm long, 2.5 cm diam.



Etymology; *Syngonium oduberi* is named in honor of former Costa Rican president Daniel Oduber Quirós, whose conservation pursuits include the establishment of the Corcovado National Park, the only locale from which this species is known. The strong support of President Oduber was a major factor leading to the development of the Costa Rican system of national parks, which is now a showcase for Latin America, insuring the survival of the natural habitat supporting the organisms with which we are concerned.



Syngonium oduberi has been collected only once, in Corcovado National Park, in the hills above Llorona ($83^{\circ}42' W$; $8^{\circ}35' S$), in wet forest, at ca 100 m elevation. It may be distinguished from the other species of *Syngonium* with oblong leaves by the following combination of characters: the short petioles 6-10 cm. long which have a sheath that is less than 1 cm wide when flattened and ends well below the base of the blade; the leaf blades themselves are 14-23 cm.

long; primary lateral veins are uniformly distributed along the blade; the peduncle is ca 4 cm long; and the spathe tube is ca 4 cm. long. The type specimen, collected in July of 1977, bears nearly mature fruit.

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