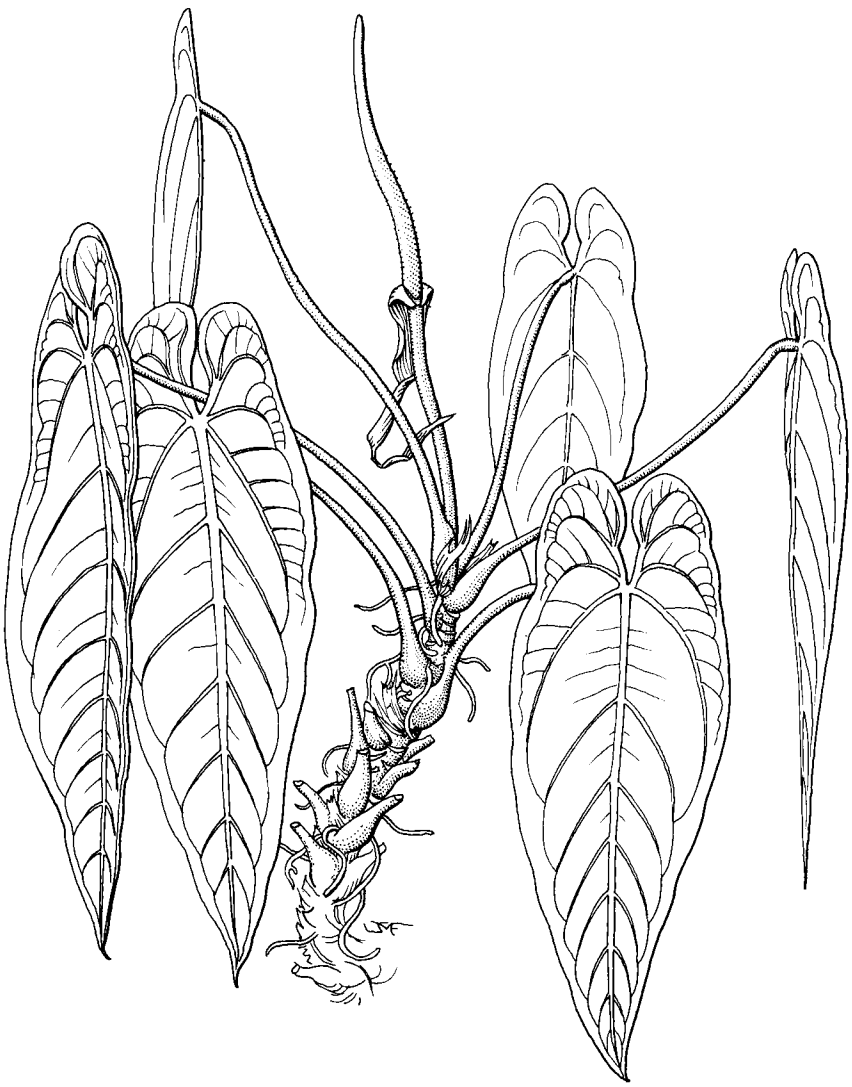
271. ANTHURIUM WAROCQUEANUM

Peter Boyce

Anthurium Schott is the largest genus in the Araceae, with possibly 1000 species (Croat, pers. comm.). It is confined to the New World, with the greatest diversity of species occurring in north-western South America. The plant figured here, *Anthurium warocqueanum* T. Moore (1878), was described in honour of the Belgian amateur plantsman M. Warocqué from a specimen cultivated at the nursery of Messrs Veitch. The Veitch nursery received their plant from G. Wallis, a plant collector in their employ who had collected it in Colombia. At almost the same time the English amateur plantsman W. Bull received a specimen of the same species, also from Colombia, gathered by his collector Carder.

Anthurium warocqueanum belongs to section *Cardiolonchium* (Croat & Sheffer, 1983: 105) and is allied to several commercially available species, for example *Anthurium crystallinum* Linden & André, *A. leuconeurum* Lem. and *A. magnificum* Linden. In the wild, section *Cardiolonchium* is confined to north-western South America, usually in pluvial rainforest at low to moderate altitudes. The section is defined by the combination of relatively short, stout stems, striate or ribbed petioles and the peduncles and leaves having a conspicuously velvety upper surface with silvery grey primary and secondary venation. The magnificent foliage is the main reason why *A. warocqueanum* is so sought after by horticulturists since the inflorescences, although large, are not conspicuously coloured as in some of the better-known *Anthurium* species, such as *A. andreanum* Linden and *A. scherzerianum* Schott.

CULTIVATION. The plants of *Anthurium warocqueanum* at Kew were donated by Missouri Botanical Garden and originated from Colombia. They are grown in a warm, moist atmosphere in a well lit but not sunny position in the same glasshouse as the *Begonia* and lowland *Nepenthes* species. The house is maintained at a minimum temperature of 20°C with atmospheric humidity at approximately 70 per cent. In hot weather temperatures are allowed to rise to 30°C with a correspondingly higher atmospheric humidity. *Anthurium warocqueanum* is erect to somewhat arborescent in habit but with its large pendent leaves is prone to toppling over, thus adequate support is very important. At Kew a stout stake covered with living sphagnum moss is used. This provides support and the moss encourages the



Anthurium warocqueanum. Habit. Drawn by Mark Fothergill.

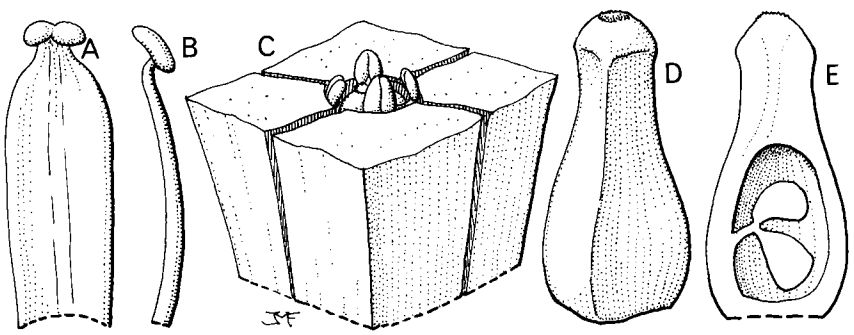
production of roots along the entire length of the stem. An open soil with a large proportion of coarse bark chips and sphagnum moss has proved the most successful. The large leaves are brittle and the velvety upper surface is prone to damage, either through rough handling or from water remaining on the surface. This damage does

Anthurium warocqueanum

ANN FARRER

not appear to be detrimental to the plant and undoubtedly occurs in the wild, but it is unsightly and spoils the plant's appearance. Propagation is possible from seed but, to date, fertile fruits have not been produced at Kew. The plant occasionally produces offsets and the removal of these small side shoots provides a convenient means of increase.

Anthurium warocqueanum T. Moore in Florist and Pomologist: 101 (1878); Engl. in A. & C. DC., Monog. Phanerog. 2: 638 (1879); Engl., Das Pflanzenr. 21(IV.23B): 196 (1905). Type: Colombia, without exact locality, *Wallis* s.n.; described from a living plant cultivated by Veitch and Son, the type specimen prepared by N. E. Brown, 25 January 1879 (holotype K!).



Anthurium warocqueanum. A, stamen, front view, × 20; B, stamen, side view, × 20; C, whole flower, × 20; D, ovary, × 20; E, ovary, longitudinal section, × 20. Drawn by Mark Fothergill.

DESCRIPTION. *Large, erect evergreen herb* to 3 metres. *Stem* erect, 2–5 cm diam., apex with large triangular, sub-fleshy prophylls and cataphylls, lower part naked, rooting prolifically from the nodes. *Roots* 3–9 mm diam.; epidermis spongy, greyish white when dry, mid-green when wet, tips bright green, sticky. *Leaves* few to several, 160–250 cm long, 8–23 cm wide, elongate cordate-lanceolate, apex acute, base cordate, sinus deep, rounded, posterior lobes 6–8 cm long, sub-oblong, rounded, parallel; lamina leathery, deep velvety green with somewhat strongly impressed silvery-grey primary, secondary and tertiary venation adaxially, pale green abaxially. *Petioles* to 60 cm long, terete, somewhat angled, geniculate apically, geniculum 2.5–4 cm long, 7–8 mm diam., mid-green. *Inflorescence* solitary; peduncle up to 30 cm long, 1–1.5 cm diam., mid-green. *Spathe* 8–20 cm long, 1.5–3 cm wide, linear-lanceolate, green, reflexed at first, later twisting, greenish white with paler and darker longitudinal bands. *Spadix* to 30 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, stipitate; stipe stout, 1–1.5 cm long, 8–12 mm

wide, deep green. *Spadix* cylindrical, tapering towards the apex, straight to slightly flexuous, light brownish green, later becoming slightly darker. *Flowers* bisexual, subtended by a whorl of four tepals; tepals scoop-shaped, 1.5–2 mm long, 0.8–1.2 mm wide, upper part expanded and short-beaked. *Stamens* 1–3.5 mm long, 0.5–0.8 mm wide, elongate-subtriangular, pale green, thecae c. 1.2 mm long, narrowly oblong, cream. *Gynoecium* 2.5–3.5 mm long, 1–1.5 mm diam., skittle-shaped; ovary 2–loculate, ovules few, on axile placentas, stylar region rounded; stigma transverse, impressed. *Infructescence* formed by almost the entire spadix, often consisting of several hundred berries. *Berries* 8–10 mm long, 5–6 mm wide, pale brownish, ovoid-conic, extruded from the spadix at maturity; seed not seen.

DISTRIBUTION. North-western Colombia, in the Depts. of Antioquia, Choco and Valle.

HABITAT. Lithophytic, epiphytic or terrestrial herb in lower montane to montane primary or disturbed pluvial rainforest; 200–1420 m.

REFERENCES

Croat, T.B. & Sheffer, R.D. (1983). The Sectional Groupings of Anthurium (Araceae). *Aroideana* 6: 85–123.

Moore, T. (1878). New Anthuriums. *The Florist and Pomologist*: 100–101.