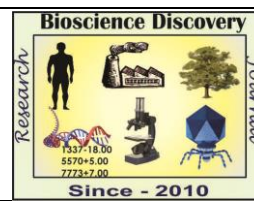


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Research Article



Typhonium roxburghii Schott (Araceae): A New Distributional Record for Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Typhonium roxburghii Schott. (Araceae) is reported for the first time from Andhra Pradesh. A detailed description and photographs are provided to facilitate identification.

Keywords:

Andhra Pradesh, Araceae,
New record, *Typhonium*,
Vizianagaram

INTRODUCTION

Typhonium Schott comprises c. 69 species, distributed in Mongolia to Tropical Asia and Australia (Govaerts *et al.*, 2014). In India the genus is represented by 10 species and 2 varieties (Karthikeyan *et al.*, 1989) and recently, the taxa *Typhonium roxburghii* var. *longispathum* was described from foothill areas of Darjeeling district, West Bengal (Nirola & Das, 2014).

During a short visit to the Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh, the authors have collected a *Typhonium* species in flowering, which was later identified as *Typhonium roxburghii* Schott. This particular species has not been reported so far from the Andhra Pradesh. Hence, it is reported here as a new addition to the flora of Andhra Pradesh (Pullaiah, 1997; Sudhakar Reddy *et al.* 2008). A detailed description and photographs are provided to facilitate identification.

Taxonomic treatment

Typhonium roxburghii Schott, Aroid. 1: 12. 1853; Nicolson & Sivadasan, Blumea 27: 492.1981. *Typhonium mottleyanum* Schott, Prodr. 106.1860; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 510.1893. *Typhonium schottii* Prain, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal Pt. 2. Nat. Hist.

67: 303. 1898. *Typhonium divaricatum* Bl. in Dene., Nouv. Ann. Mus. Hist. Nat. 3: 367.1834; Gamble, Fl. Madras 3: 1578. 1931, nom. illegit. *Typhonium amboinense* Blatt. & McC., J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 35: 23.1932.

Tuberous perennial herbs, up to 35 cm high; tubers sub-globose, 2–2.2 × 1.8–2 cm, rooting at the top. Petiole 25–30 cm long, purplish in lower third, sheathing up to 8 cm long; blade ovate to hastate, shallowly 3-lobed, 8–9 × 6–8 cm, entire along margin, cuspidate-acuminate at apex; secondary veins 7–10 pairs. Inflorescence solitary, monoecious; peduncle much shorter than petioles, c. 7.7 cm long. Spathe with basal ellipsoid to ovoid, convolute tube and an apical limb with a constriction between the two; tube c. 2.1 cm long, dark red-purple inside, purple outside; limb narrowly ovate, much longer than the broad, c. 16 × 2.5 cm, abruptly tapering from below the middle, entire along margin, long cuspidate at apex, glabrous, reddish brown. Spadix basal pistillate zone followed by a zone of sterile flowers, a naked zone or interstice, a staminate zone and a terminal barren appendix. Both pistillate and sterile flower zones are enclosed by basal tube.



Figure 1: *Typhonium roxburghii* Schott A. Habit; B. Inflorescence; C. Spadix

Pistillate zone conical, c. 5 mm long, purple-pink; flowers sessile, 1–1.2 mm long; ovary ellipsoid, c. 1 mm long, glabrous; style very short; stigma disc-shaped, glabrous. Sterile flower zone yellow, c. 3 mm long; sterile flowers filiform, entire, decurved, each 2.5-3 mm long. Naked zone c. 1.3 cm long, creamy. Staminate zone cylindric, 6-6.5 × 1–1.5 mm, coral pink; flowers sessile, 0.5–1 mm long with 2 thecae; dehiscence by apical short slits or pores. A somewhat contracted stipe c. 4.3 mm long subtends the basally swollen appendix. Appendix 12.5-15 cm long, dark red/brown. (Fig. 1)

Flowering & fruiting: July – September

Habitat: Rare in shady places

Distribution: WORLD: Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Papua-New Guinea, Brazil, Bangladesh, China, Japan (Bonin Islands), Thailand; introduced in E Africa, W. Australia, and South America (Nicolson and Sivadasan, 1981; Hay, 1993). INDIA: South to Eastern India (Karthikeyan *et al.*, 1989), and now from Andhra Pradesh.

Specimen examined: India: Andhra Pradesh, Vizianagaram district, Gunupuru, N 18.10750000 E 83.4563889, 66 m, 23rd July 2017, R.Prameela and J. Swamy 004341 (BSID).

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