

A NEW *CALATHEA* (MARANTACEAE) FROM ECUADOR

Helen Kennedy\*

*Calathea dodsonii* Kennedy, sp. nov.

(Plate 13:A).

Folia petiolata, petioli parte superiore ad 1.5 cm longa, callosa undique adpressa tomentosa, late elliptica rotundata cum acumine, basi breviter angustata, supra glabra, subtus glabra. Spica cylindrica ad 15 cm longa; bracteae spiraliter dispositae, purpureae, minutissime tomentosae; paria florum bracteolis binis comitatae; prophylla et mesophylla puberula; ovarium glabrum; sepala obovata obtusa 1.3 cm longa glabra.

Rhizomatous herb up to 1 m tall, shoots bearing two or more leaves in a rosette. Leaf blade somewhat leathery, elliptic to broadly elliptic, the apex rounded with a short acumen, the base obtuse to rounded, shortly attenuate, 30-40 cm long, 18-27 cm wide, green above, glabrous, the midrib glabrous; lower surface dark red-purple or green, glabrous. Pulvinus appressed, tomentose, 1.3-1.5 cm long in the subtending leaf. Petiole subglabrous above, minutely tomentose below, ca. 25 cm long. Leaf sheath not auriculate, tomentose, densely appressed, tomentose at the base, ca. 13 cm long in the subtending leaf. Stem subglabrous. Inflorescence single, terminal on the leafy shoot, cylindrical to subovoid, ca. 11-15 cm high, 4-5.5 cm wide. Peduncle dark red-purple, densely appressed, tomentose, ca. 6-10 cm long. Bracts ca. 15-25 in number, spirally arranged, the lower bracts broadly elliptic, with an obtuse to subacuminate apex; upper bracts obovate-obtrullate, the apex shortly acuminate to obtuse with an acumen, the apical portion recurved, 3.5-5.8 cm high, 2.2-5 cm wide, subtending 5 or more flower pairs. Outer surface of the bract dark red-purple, densely appressed, tomentose; inner surface tomentose above. Bicarinate prophyll narrowly oblong-elliptic to narrowly obovate, the apex acute to subobtuse, the apical  $\frac{1}{4}$  purple, densely pilose toward the apex, 3.5-4.2 cm long, ca. 1.3-1.4 cm wide. Secondary bract narrowly obovate-elliptic, the apex acute to acuminate, tinged with purple, the upper half pilose, ca. 3.3 cm high, ca. 0.9 cm wide. Bracteoles 2 (occasionally 1) per flower pair, pilose apically, 2.5-3 cm high, ca. 0.2 cm wide. Sepals narrowly obovate-elliptic, obtuse, tinged with purple apically, glabrous, ca. 1.3 cm long, 0.3-0.4 cm wide. Corolla tube purple, glabrous, ca. 2.9 cm long; corolla lobes subequal, elliptic, acute, purple, glabrous, 1.3-1.5 cm long, ca. 0.6 cm wide, the outer staminode transverse to broadly elliptic, the apex rounded, white, ca. 0.8 cm long, ca. 0.9 cm wide, the callose staminode petaloid apically, the apex bilobed, white, ca. 1.3 cm long, ca. 1 cm wide. Style and stigma white. Ovary glabrous, ca. 2 mm high. Capsule obovoid, ca. 1.1 cm high. Seeds unknown.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of its discoverer, Dr. Calaway H. Dodson.

TYPE: ECUADOR: LOS RÍOS: along stream bed near crossing of trail 3 and entrance road, Río Palenque Science Center, km 56, Rd. Quevedo-Santo Domingo, alt. 150-220 m, 14 Aug. 1976, C. H. Dodson 6154 (HOLOTYPE: F, ISOTYPES: SEL, RPSC).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

This species belongs to *Calathea* series *Nudiscapae*. It is recognized by the rotund, broadly elliptic leaf (length less than twice the width); the short (ca. 1.5 cm), densely appressed tomentose pulvinus; the single, basal, subcylindrical inflorescence with dark red-purple, minutely tomentose bracts; the two, occasionally one, membranaceous bracteoles per flower pair; the pilose bicarinate prophyll; and the glabrous sepals and ovary. *Calathea dodsonii* is related to *C. amplissima* Petersen, *C. oblonga* (Mart.) Koernicke, and *C. umbrosa* Koernicke from Brasil, but differs in its purple bracts and glabrous leaves.

\*Botany Dept., Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL 60605