
Planta terrestres aut hemiepiphytica; internodia brevia longa, 2–4 cm diam.; cataphylla 14–46 cm longa, acute 2-costata, persisten
tia ut fibra; petioli D-formatus, 38–109 cm longos, 2–14 mm diam., plerunque longior quam
diam. laminae; lamina triangulari-sagittata vel ovata, 42–77 cm longa, 16–52 cm lata, atroviridis supra, saepve veneta infra;
inforescencia 1–3; pedunculus 3–14 cm longus, 2–9 mm diam.; spatha 11–20 cm longa; lamina spatheae extus alba vel
cremaea, intus viridula; tubo spatheae 3–7 cm longo, extus pallide viridi, intus viridi vel albo; pistilla (45–
7(8)-locularia; loculi 16–22-ovulati.

Terrestrial or hemiepiphytic, growing to 4 m high
in trees; stem appressed-climbing; internodes short,
2–4 cm diam., dark green, semiglossy, drying light
yellowish brown, epidermis fragmented, reddish
brown; roots several per node, <30 cm long, drying
dark brown with epidermis ridged and splitting;
cataphylls soft, 14–46 cm long, sharply 2-ribbed
(ribs low), green or tinged pink when young to redes-
dish brown or brown, drying brownish, persisting
semi-intact, soon dilacerating; petioles 38–109 cm
long, 2–14 mm diam., D-shaped, firm, flexible,
sometimes with low, medial rib adaxially and with
adaxial margins obtuse to rounded, medium green,
weakly glossy, faintly to conspicuously dark- or stri-
ate-lineate, drying yellow-brown, dark brown to
sometimes blackened; blades triangular-sagittate
to ovate-triangulare, subcoriaceous, conspicuously
bicolorous, acuminate to long-acuminate at apex, sag-
itate at base, 42–77 cm long, 16–52 cm wide (0.8–1.8
times longer than wide), (0.6–1.4 times longer than
petiole), usually shorter than petiole (averag-
ing 0.9 times as long), upper surface dark green,
matte or weakly glossy, sometimes glistening, dry-
ing dark brown, lower surface much paler (forming
an areolate pattern on high magnification) and
matte, often bluish green to whitish, drying bluish
green if triangular-sagittate or yellowish brown if
ovate-triangulare, glaucous; anterior lobe 28–58 cm
long, 18–51 cm wide (1.6–3.3 times longer than
posterior lobes); posterior lobes broadly obtuse to
narrowly rounded, 13.5–25 cm long, 10–23 cm
wide, rounded; sinus spatulate to parabolic, 9–12
cm deep; midrib broadly sunken to flat above,
slightly paler, obliquely triangular and darker below;
basal veins 5–11 per side, with 1–2(3) free to base, with a few veins coalesced for 5–9 cm; posterior rib prominently naked to 2.5–5 cm; primary lateral veins (4)12–18 per side, departing midrib at a 50–60º angle, weakly arcuate to ± straight to the margins, C-shaped to sunken and slightly paler above, convex and concolobous below; minor veins conspicuous, darker than surface to obscure below, arising from both the midrib and primary lateral veins. INFLORESCENCES ± erect, 1–3 per axil; peduncle 3–14 cm long, 2–9 mm diam., coarsely white-striate; spathe 11–20 cm long (1.15–2.8(4.7) times longer than peduncle); spathe blade white to cream and densely short-lineate outside, greenish white inside; spathe tube pale green and short-lineate outside, 3–7 cm long, greenish to white, sometimes faintly pinkish inside; spadix sessile to weakly stipitate; 12.8–16.6 cm long; pistillate portion 5.5 cm long in front, 3–3.5 cm long in back, 1.6–2 cm diam. midway, 1.5–1.6 cm diam. ca. 1 cm from apex; staminate portion 6.8–9.4 cm long; fertile staminate portion tapering toward apex, constricted (to 8–10 mm, 1.5–2 cm above base of sterile section) above sterile male flowers, 1 cm long at base, 1–1.6 cm diam. at middle, 5–7 mm diam. near apex; sterile staminate portion 1–1.7 cm diam. at base, 1 cm diam. at apex; pistils 2.8–3.8(6.2) mm long, 1.2 mm diam.; ovary (4)5–7(8)-locular, 1.7–2.3 mm diam., with axile placentation, wall sometimes embedded with angular crystal-like particles; locules 2.7(4.9) mm long, 0.5–0.6 mm diam.; ovules ca. 16–22 per locule, 2-seriate, 0.2–0.4 mm long, longer than funicle; funicle 0.1–0.2 mm long, adnate to lower part of partition; stigma lobed; style 1.3–2.1 mm diam., similar to style type B; style apex sloping to somewhat rounded, drying granular with an acute, turned up margin; stigmar pores thickened, usually fused with the crown, sometimes free or nearly so, each with its own fringe of stigmatic papillae; style boss broad, shallow to quite shallow; the androecium truncate, prismatic, oblong, margins irregularly 4–6-sided, 0.9–1.2 mm long; thecae oblong, ± parallel to one another; sterile staminate flowers prismatic to weakly clavate, irregularly 5–6-sided, 1.2–1.6 mm long. INFRUTESCENCE with berries whitish (maturing).

Flowering in Philodendron thalassicum occurs throughout the dry season to the mid-rainy season (January through August), though no flowering collections are known from February (although post-anthesis collections do exist). Post-anthesis collections are known from April and May, and especially June, July, and August, and also from November (indicating that flowering may occur later than August). Immature fruiting collections are known from January, February, June, September, and November.

Philodendron thalassicum ranges from central Costa Rica to western Panama (Chiriquí) at (775)1000 to 2100 m elevation in Premontane rain forest, Tropical Lower Montane wet forest, and Tropical Lower Montane rain forest life zones.

Philodendron thalassicum is a member of P. sect. Philodendron subsect. Philodendron ser. Impolita. This species is characterized by its short thick internodes, two-ribbed cataphylls persisting as fibers, more or less D-shaped petioles (averaging longer than the blades), internally greenish to white spathe tube, and especially by the pale matte, often bluish green lower leaf surfaces. The epithet "thalassicum" (from thalassicus, meaning sea green or bluish green) is derived from this coloration of the lower blade surface.

Philodendron thalassicum may be confused with P. hebetatum and P. strictum, which also have matte, much paler lower blade surfaces. Both differ in having subteree petioles drying conspicuously light yellow-brown, rather than sharply D-shaped and drying somewhat blackened as in P. thalassicum. In addition, both P. hebetatum and P. strictum have cataphylls drying yellowish and semi-intact and spathe tubes colored reddish, maroon, or violet-purple within.

Plants of P. thalassicum with sagittate blades might be confused with narrow-leaved plants of P. jodavisanum or P. tenue, but both of those species have blades that are semiglossy to glossy (not at all glaucous) below. More ovate blade-forms of P. thalassicum might be confused with P. schottianum, but the latter also usually has a semiglossy lower blade surface, cataphylls that persist semi-intact, and spathe tubes reddish internally.

Philodendron thalassicum is variable in blade shape, with some triangular-sagittate (e.g., Grayum et al. 3760, Croat 15876, 15745) and others ovate (e.g., Burger & Burger 7541, Burger & Stolze 5661, Burger & Liesner 6745). Those with ovate leaves sometimes dry brownish on the lower surface while those with the triangular-sagittate blades dry bluish green. No other differences between these two forms have been detected.
Phylidendron Subgenus Philodendron


Hemiepiphytic; appressed-climbing, stem often several meters long, sap watery, very aromatic-scented; internodes moderately elongate except near the apex, semiglossy, drying coarsely and irregularly ribbed (the ribs usually acute), 3–14 cm long, 1–2 cm diameter. (to 3.5 cm diameter in Colombia), green to dark green to gray-green, soon drying light brown, epidermis sometimes loose and papery, roots usually 3–6 per node, usually less than 20 cm long, drying brown, less than 3 mm diam., semiglossy, sparsely scaly; cataphylls thin, (10)18–33 cm long, usually unribbed, sometimes sharply 1-ribbed, greenish, sometimes tinged reddish, deciduous in tact. LEAVES erect-spreadling to spreading; petioles 20–61 cm long, 6–15 mm diam., terete to subterete, moderately spongy, sometimes obtusely somewhat flattened, sometimes with an obtuse medi- dinal rib, dark green, surface glossy to weakly glossy; blades deeply 3-lobed almost to the base or rarely trisect, ca. as broad as long in outline, thinly coriaceous, semiglossy, moderately bicolorous, acuminate at apex, lower surface sometimes heavily tinged purplish or reddish; typically rather dissimilar, median segment usually oblancheolate, sometimes nearly elliptic, rarely oblong to linear, 15–45 cm long, (4.5)7–14(19) cm wide, 1.9–7.8 times longer than wide (averaging 4.3 times longer than wide), (0.9)1.5(1.7) times longer than lateral segments); the lateral segments conspicuously ine-