



Newsletter

April 2019

Dear ASA Members

Welcome to our March newsletter, we hope that you all had a great summer, and that your plants survived the heat this year.

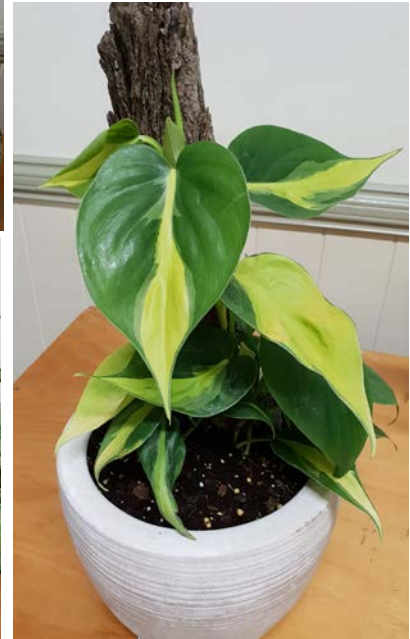
FEBRUARY MEETING

In February, the ASA held their first meeting for 2019. In spite of having to deal with a new venue, it was an excellent meeting, with a number of new members attending and a great spread of plants.

Michael Pascall gave an interesting presentation on Differentiating Dieffenbachias and Appreciating Aglaonemas. The footage of this presentation is available in the members only Facebook group.

Plus, it was our second attempt at the Popular Vote, which gives members the platform to showcase their best plants for the chance to win a prize. This time around went even better than the first, with a great selection of plants (images right). Congratulations to Jordan Ives for winning with a breathtaking Anthurium crystallinum in flower. There were some stunning entries (images right) and we look forward to doing it again next meeting. Thanks again to Bec Kos for helping to organise this, and thanks also to Mim, Bec, Trevor, Judy, Olive, and Brad for entering plants.

Some of the entries in the Popular Vote contest at the February meeting





ASA NEWS

AROID NEWS

Everybody loved the section on Aroid News in the last newsletter, and so to keep our members updated with all the exciting news happening in aroid research, we're going to keep this going in every issue. Make sure to check out the two articles covered in this Newsletter on [page 7](#).

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Our membership is growing quickly, and until now we have not had a dedicated committee member in charge of membership. Therefore we have created the committee position of 'Membership Officer' to handle all membership matters. Our current committee member Mim Stocks has graciously taken on this role, bringing her charm, initiative, and quick-learning to ensure a smooth transition. While Mim holds the position currently, it will still follow the standard procedure during the AGM.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We would like to take this chance to inform you all of our upcoming AGM held on the 7 August 2018. For those of you who have never participated in a society before, this is a significant meeting because, during the meeting,

the committee is disbanded and all positions become vacant. Following this, the committee for the proceeding year takes over. This means that shortly we will be taking nominations for each of the committee positions. Considering that fact that we are an australia-wide society, we would like to do our best to represent the whole of australia. As such, we welcome nominations from all states, and will endeavour to construct an apparatus to ensure that, if a vote is required, all members will be able to do so even if unable to travel to the AGM location.

ASA ONLINE LIBRARY

We are now starting to collect an impressive back catalogue of Newsletters, information sheets, and presentations. While we will upload these to Facebook so our members can read them, Facebook doesn't allow us to catalogue them, so they can be messy and things can be hard to find. In response, we have dedicated a section of our website to hosting these files. If you are looking for any of our prior documents, just go aroids.net/files.html. To ensure these files are only accessible for ASA members, you will be asked for a username and password.

Username: ASA
Password: 2019



*A selection
of plants in
the popular
vote from
the
previous
meeting*



UPCOMING EVENTS APRIL GENERAL MEETING

When: Wednesday 3rd April 2019

Where: Sunnybank RSL 19 Gager Street,
Sunnybank, Queensland, Australia 4109

Plant sellers arrive at 6:00pm set up by 6:15pm, doors open 6.20pm for members to sign in, purchase raffle tickets and set up popular vote.

Plant sales start 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm

Guest Speaker Erik Van Zuilekom will give a talk on "Aroid ecologies and implications on cultivation illustrated through Images of habitat through Borneo, Indonesia to Ecuador and Colombia"

Online Raffle will be drawn on the night, details are available on the ASA Facebook group.

Popular Vote The popular vote gives you a chance to win a \$50 voucher to spend on plant sales. To win, all you need to do is bring a unique, special or attractive plant and display it in the popular vote section. You must be a financial member and bring a plant along that you think will be of interest. Upon arrival, bring your plant to Bec to get a number to display with your plant.

For Sellers: If you would like to sell on the night, please be set up by 6:15 pm. Aroids only for sale please. Each seller is responsible for setting up, packing down, and tidying their area. There will be pricing labels available at meeting, \$2 for 40 labels. The ASA will take a 10% commission on the sale of plants, unless the person is a guest speaker or travelling from interstate.

Any pots/plants for sale must be clean or in bags.

What to bring: The ASA does not provide single use plastic bags, so please bring your own bags or box to carry your plants home. ASA does not have eftpos facilities, so be sure to bring sufficient cash.

Please bring a plate of supper to share, the ASA will provide coffee and tea.

Sales start at 6:30pm, don't miss out! For more information: secretary@aroids.net



QUEENSLAND FIELD DAY

Steve Flood has generously offered his residence to host the ASA for our next field day.

His address is:

11 Mountindale court
Mooloolah Valley 4553

Everybody should arrive at 10.30am, more details about the plan for the day will be shared prior to the event.

The society will supply a sausage sizzle for lunch, as well as coffee and tea. Members are asked to please bring desserts. We also ask that you bring a chair to sit on, and a cup to drink out of.

We will host a raffle on the day, and therefore welcome raffle donations from members.

Steve will be selling plants on the day also, so please bring cash.

Please RSVP to secretary@aroids.net by 8th May 2019 for catering purposes.

This should be an excellent day, we hope to see many of you there!

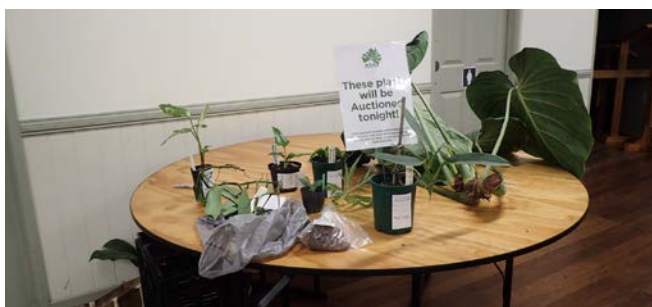
WE NEED YOU!

Our group of passionate aroiders in NSW is growing! Unfortunately, none of the ASA committee reside in NSW to start to organise events for you all. This means that we need some enthusiastic volunteers from NSW to put their hand up to organise future events. The ASA will provide experience, resources, and funding to get your events off the ground, and be there with you every step of the way to make it happen. If this interests you, please get in contact with us at secretary@aroids.net.



FEBRUARY MEETING

The ASA had a great start to the year, kicking things off with a meeting in February. There were many excellent plants for sale and Michael Pascall gave an interesting presentation.



Clockwise from top: Michael giving his presentation; Jace checking on the plant sales; an excellent audience; plants for auction; the plants in the online raffle.



Clockwise from right:
 Mim helping to set
 up; Trevor
 auctioning off a
 plant;
 a choc-a-bloc
 plant sales table;
 mingling;
 Jordan Ives
 with a haul of plants;
 More plant sales.





AROID NEWS

The world of Aroids is an exciting and constantly changing place. To keep you up to date, each newsletter will have a section on Aroid News.

UNDERSTANDING THE 3 PHILODENDRON GROUPS

Philodendron is one of the largest Neotropical plant taxa, with approximately 500 species and at least 1000 species predicted. Within the Philodendron genera, there are three morphological groups, P. subg.

Pteromischum, P. subg. *Philodendron* and P. subg. *Meconostigma*, which was recently recognized as a separate genus, *Thaumatophyllum*.¹

Because of this, the *Philodendron* genus is considered to include these through 3 subgenera in a broad sense, but in a strict sense, *Philodendron* contains 2 subgenera, and *Thaumatophyllum* stands as a sister group in the same clade.

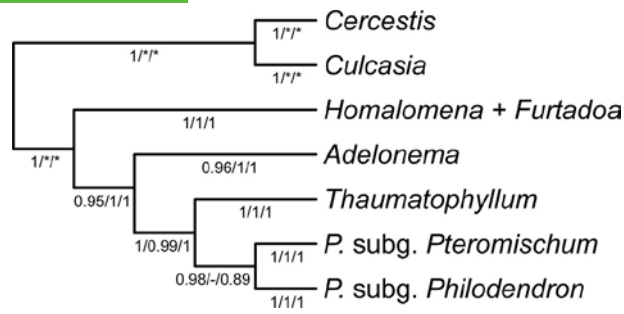
In their 2018 article 'New insights on the phylogenetic relationships among



Representing members of the three lineages of *Philodendron* in their respective habitats.

Thaumatophyllum: *T. corcovadense* (A), *T. spruceanum* (B) and *T. solimoense* (C); P. subg. *Philodendron*: *P. bipennifolium* (D), *P. callosum* (E), *P. distantilobum* (F), *P. linnaei* (G) and *P. megalophyllum* (H); and P. subg. *Pteromischum*: *P. rudgeanum* (I).

Source:
Vasconcelos,
Soares,
Sakuragai, Croat,
Oliveira, and
Benko-Iseppon
2018, p. 169

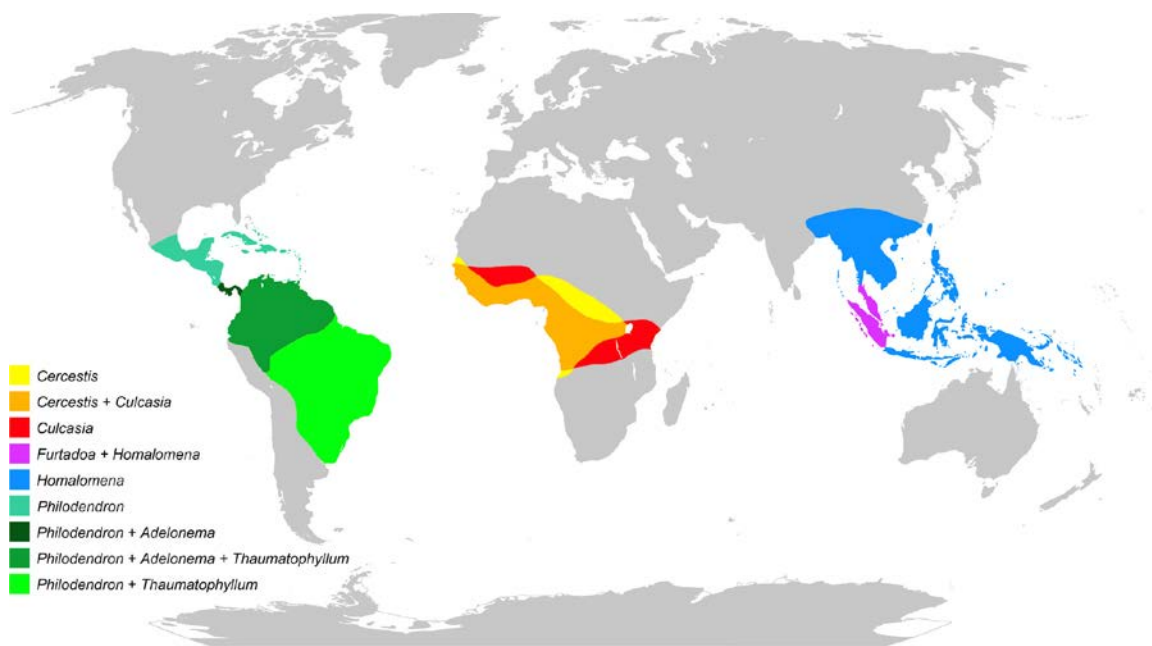


Summary tree of the major groups of the Homalomena clade, including the three lineages of *Philodendron* s.l., showing posterior probability values of the cpDNA, ITS2 and concatenated (cpDNA + ITS2) analyses, respectively, under the branches.

the traditional *Philodendron* subgenera and the other groups of the Homalomena clade (Araceae) in *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, Vasconcelos, Soares, Sakuragui, Croat, Oliveira, and Benko-Iseppon aim to clarify the relations between the genera within the Homalomena clade and, in doing so, clarify the relationship between the three *Philodendron* subgroups.²

Although there is evidence that the geographic origin of *Philodendron* is

placed in the Amazon basin, the biogeographic history of the major group in which the genus is inserted, the Homalomena clade, remains obscure. The Homalomena clade is composed of the *Philodendron* clade, which contains four genera, two from Tropical America, *Philodendron* and *Adelonema* Schott, and two from Southeastern Asia, *Homalomena* Schott, and *Furtadoa* M.Hotta, and the *Culcasieae*, with two genera from Central Africa - *Cercestis* Schott and *Culcasia* P.Beauv. Image below.



Geographic distribution of the seven genera of the Homalomena clade sensu

Source: Cusimano et al. (2011)³

The authors' data confirmed traditional morphologic groups within *Philodendron*. And, for the first time in molecular phylogenetics, they showed that the broad *Philodendron* genus has distinct and clear lineages (image at top of page). The authors therefore suggest the

resurrection of the genus *Elopium* Schott to encompass the *P.* subspecies *Pteromischem*, which is consistent with the previous decisions of separating *H.* sect. *Curmeria* into *Adelonema* and *P.* subg. *Meconostigma* into *Thaumatophyllum*.



Top: Underside of the foliage of *Monstera punctulata*, showing the four bats roosting there (white circle); middle: Close up to the bats roosting; bottom: A female bat.

Source: Aguilar-Rodríguez and Jiménez, 2018, 'Home Sweet Home: *Monstera punctulata* As a Roost for a Neotropical Bat', p. 239.

'HOME SWEET HOME'

Pedro Adrián Aguilar-Rodríguez and Pedro Díaz Jiménez in their 2018 'Home Sweet Home: *Monstera punctulata* As a Roost for a Neotropical Bat'⁴ describe how tropical fruit-eating bats use a variety of roosting sites to spend the day, including leaves that they modify by chewing into the major ribs to allow collapse of the leaf to make a shelter. These shelters are called "tents".

Aguilar-Rodríguez and Jiménez discovered a new aroid used by these bats as a tent, *Monstera punctulata* in Mexico, the first record of an aroid being used as a "tent" in this country.

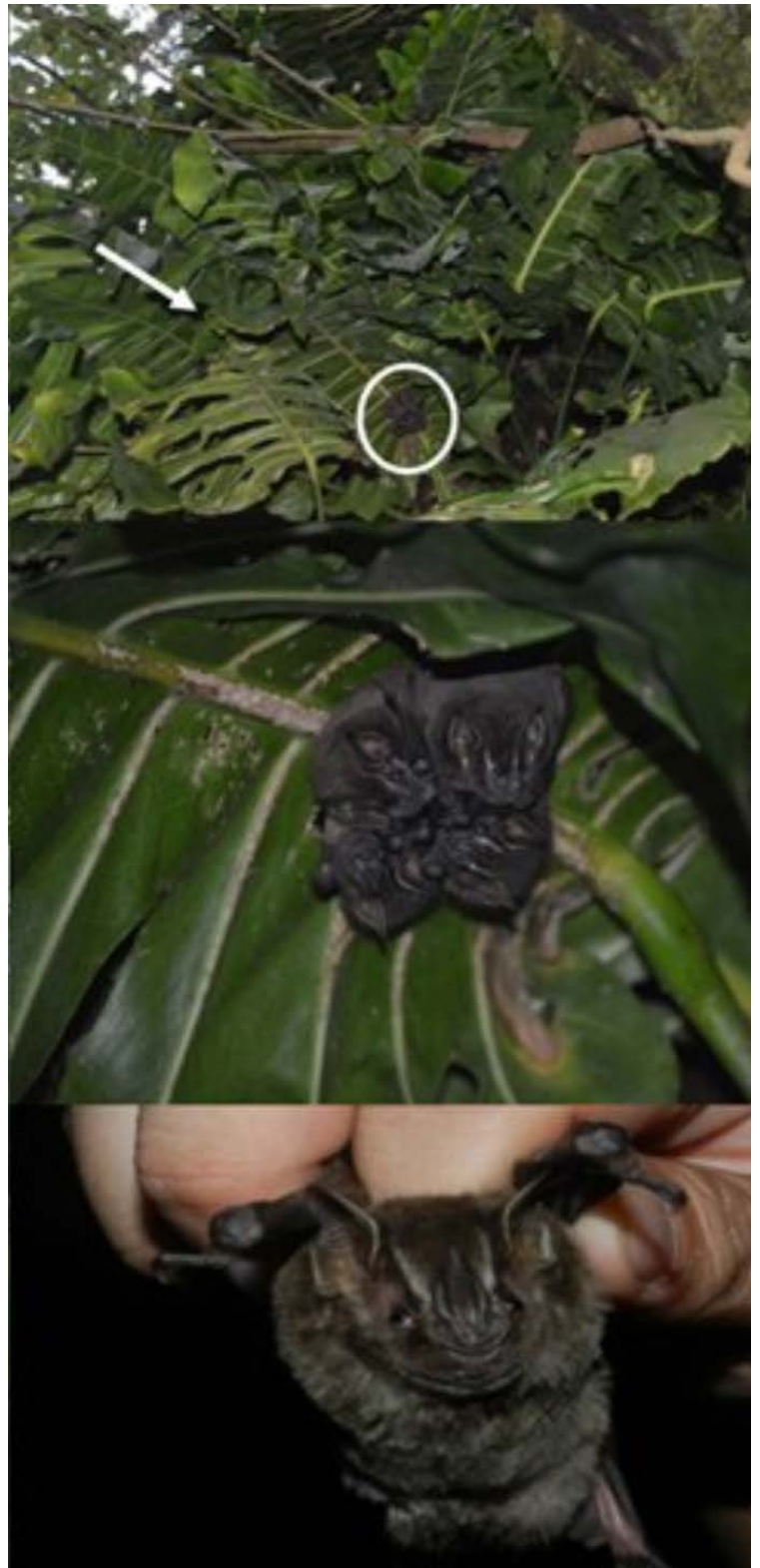
To date, more than 20 bats species, from three tropical bat families, are known to make these "tents" in various kinds of trees.

Adding *Monstera punctulata* to the list means that there are now 25 known aroids species used by tent-making bats.

Images right.

Bibliography

1. Sakuragui, C.M., Calazans, L.S.B., Oliveira, L.L., Morais, E.B., Benko-Iseppon, A.M., Vasconcelos, S., Schrago, C.E.G., Mayo, S.J., 2018. 'Recognition of the genus *Thaumatophyllum* Schott – formerly *Philodendron* subg. *Meconostigma* (Araceae) – based on molecular and morphological evidence'. *PhytoKeys* 98, 51–71.
2. Santelmo Vasconcelos, Maria de Lourdes Soares, Cássia M. Sakuragui, Thomas B. Croat, Guilherme Oliveira, Ana M. Benko-Iseppon, 'New insights on the phylogenetic relationships among the traditional *Philodendron* subgenera and the other groups of the *Homalomena* clade (Araceae)', *Molecular*



Phylogenetics and Evolution, Volume 127, 2018, Pages 168-178.

3. Cusimano, N., Bogner, J., Mayo, S.J., Boyce, P.C., Wong, S.Y., Hesse, M., Hettterscheid, W.L.A., Keating, R.C., French, J.C., 2011. 'Relationships within the Araceae: comparison of morphological patterns with molecular phylogenies'. *Am. J. Bot.* 98, 654–668.

4. Aguilar-Rodríguez, P.A. and Jiménez, P.D. 2018, 'Home Sweet Home: *Monstera punctulata* As a Roost for a Neotropical Bat', *Aroideana*, vol. 41, no. 2-3, pp. 237-248.



CALENDAR OF ASA EVENTS

- ASA Annual General Meeting: 7th August 2019
- ASA Meeting: 9th October 2019

ASA MANAGEMENT TEAM

President - **Michael Pascall**

Vice President - **Lee Thorneycroft**

Secretary - **Steven Best**

Assistant Secretary - **Trevor Crawford**

Treasurer - **Jim Edwards**

Editor/Tech support - **Aaron Grinter**

Assistant Editor/Tech support - **Jace Cowen**

General Committee - **Neil Crafter** and **Mim Stocks**

QUICK GUIDE TO FACEBOOK GROUPS

Community group: For the general public and non-fee paying members to discuss aroids and ask aroid related questions. Strictly no selling or advertisements.

Members Only group: For fee paying members of the ASA for any discussion. Also used for communication about ASA events and uploading of newsletters.

Marketplace group: For fee paying members of the ASA to buy, sell, swap, and give away aroids. Also for posting businesses, sales, promotions and recommendations.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to send our upmost appreciation to Trevor Crawford, Arden Dearden, Chris Hall, Steve Flood, Michael Pascall, Jim Edwards, Lee Thorneycroft, Peter Boyce and Neil Crafter for your kind contributions and ongoing donations to our online raffle and auctions. Proceeds from these raffles and sales are invaluable to keep our Society functioning. Special thanks also to Sarah Boyle for volunteering her time to help with our marketing.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on **7th August 2019** at the Sunnybank RSL.

Yours sincerely

The Aroid Society of Australia Inc Committee