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Flowering Behavior in Colocasia gigantea Hook. f.

Author: B.P. Naiola, S. Danimihardja, and Hartati-Imamuddin, National Biological Institute, Bogor, Indonesia.

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ABSTRACT

The process of anthesis, stigma receptivity, pollen shed, pollen fertility, and some genetic characteristics were studied in Colocasia gigantea Hook. f., a related species of taro (Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott).

Anthesis began between 8:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. followed, after several hours, by the secretion of mucous in the stigmas, which was taken as evidence of receptivity. Stigmas became receptive some hours earlier than pollen shedding. Pollen was shed about 27 to 32 hours after anthesis.

The pollen fertility recorded was more than 90%. Each fruit contained 30 to 90 seeds with an average of 500 to 900 fruits in each inflorescence. Seed germination was 76% to 100%, with epigeous germination. This high fertility may be of use in breeding within the genus Colocasia.

