

New water trumpet species found in the Philippines

October 19 2023, by Li Yuan



Cryptocoryne zamboangaensis. Credit: Mark Arcebal K. Naive

With the help of three citizen scientists, an unknown *Cryptocoryne* population was found in one of the streams of Zamboanga del Norte province, Philippines, in March 2023. After careful morphological

studies and literature review, researchers from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and their collaborators confirmed the unknown species was distinctive and new to science.

The [new species](#) was named *Cryptocoryne zamboangaensis* to refer to Zamboanga Peninsula where this species was discovered. The study was published in the [Nordic Journal of Botany](#) on Oct. 17.

Cryptocoryne zamboangaensis is a perennial, amphibious, large herb. It is similar to *Cryptocoryne aponogetifolia* for very long leaves and a long spathe tube, but recognized by a narrowly ovate, about 2 cm broad, densely verrucose bright purple spathe limb with a distinct narrow collar.



Cryptocoryne zamboangaensis. Credit: Mark Arcebal K. Naive



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The new species is endemic to the Zamboanga Peninsula. So far, the species has only been found in the type locality where fewer than 250 mature individuals have been observed. The population is currently under threat by anthropogenic activities. The researchers thus proposed its conservation status as "Endangered" according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard.

"Zamboanga has the greatest number of recorded *Cryptocoryne* species,

also known as water trumpet plants. With the discovery of this new endemic species, the Philippines now holds 11 taxa of *Cryptocoryne*," said Mark Arcebal Naive, a Philippine student working for his Ph.D. in XTBG.

More information: Mark Arcebal K. Naive et al, Discovery through citizen science III: *Cryptocoryne zamboangensis* (Araceae), a new water trumpet discovered in Zamboanga del Norte, Philippines, *Nordic Journal of Botany* (2023). [DOI: 10.1111/njb.04181](https://doi.org/10.1111/njb.04181)

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