

New perspective and observations of *Amorphophallus titanum*

S.M. Jones^{1,*}, and T. Hatzenbuehler²

¹United States Botanic Garden, Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America

²Architect of Capitol, District of Columbia, United States of America

*Corresponding author email: stephen.jones@aoc.gov

Keywords: *Amorphophallus titanum*, collections, dissection, horticulture, morphology

Collections horticulture is an eternal well of botanical research potential. Given the rarest plants in the world and limited instructions, horticulturists are challenged to determine precisely what makes a plant tick and exact numerous controlled inputs to see out a plant's potential. As a natural result of this work, collections horticulturists are uniquely suited to observe, record and share observations that can unlock botanical knowledge and understanding. This striking poster is one such example that shows the iconic *Amorphophallus titanum* in a new light. The 2.59m plant is shown at full scale and in high resolution including the exposed stem and roots. The spathe, spadix and peduncle are bisected to reveal the inner structure of the world's largest known unbranched inflorescence. Two notable observations clear in this image are the unexpected size of the stem relative to the inflorescence and the limited rooting that occurs during reproductive growth from the apex only. Much remains to be understood about this endangered species, and with limited in-situ observational data, collections horticulturists have much to contribute.