The Cannaceae, a distinct family with a single genus, Canna, consists of robust, rhizomatous, perennial herbs, most of which are indigenous to tropical Central and South America (Tanaka 2001). The genus Canna is characterized by asymmetric, showy flowers with a staminodial labellum, two or three relatively unspecialized, petaloid sterile staminodes, and one partially petaloid functional stamen (Rogers 1984).

A hitherto undescribed species of the genus Canna was discovered during a field expedition to Honduras. The plant was found growing at the edge of coastal forest in the east of the country. Attaining over 4 m in height, the species is characterized by its stature and remarkable many-branched inflorescences, large, peduncled flowers with three conspicuously patent, elongate staminodes, and by its small capsules and seeds.

Key words: Canna, Cannaceae, Honduras, new species.

The Cannaceae, a distinct family with a single genus, Canna, consists of robust, rhizomatous, perennial herbs, most of which are indigenous to tropical Central and South America (Tanaka 2001). The genus Canna is characterized by asymmetric, showy flowers with a staminodial labellum, two or three relatively unspecialized, petaloid sterile staminodes, and one partially petaloid functional stamen (Rogers 1984).

A hitherto undescribed species of the genus Canna was discovered during a field expedition to Honduras. The plant was found growing at the edge of coastal forest in the east of the country. Attaining over 4 m in height, the species is characterized by its stature and remarkable many-branched inflorescences, large, peduncled flowers, conspicuous patent staminodes and small capsules. Prior to the discovery, only three members of the genus were known to attain 4 m in height, namely, C. iridiflora Ruiz. & Pav., C. liliiflora Warsz. ex Planch., and C. tuerckheimii Kraenzl. Though the material collected in eastern Honduras was tentatively identified as C. tuerckheimii Kraenzl. during the expedition, a detailed morphological study has since revealed it to be distinct. The new species is distinguished from C. tuerckheimii by the following characters (Fig. 1): 1) erect flowers (vs. slightly pendulous flowers in C. tuerckheimii); 2) staminodes that are conspicuously patent from the base (vs. flowers that are slightly twisted in C. tuerckheimii, with the lower 2/3 of the staminodes being connate and upper 1/3 free); and 3) a recurved petaloid labellum (vs. a patent, non-recurved labellum in C. tuerckheimii). The new species is described below as Canna tulianensis Nb. Tanaka. The species epithet is named after the type locality in eastern Honduras.

Canna tulianensis Nb. Tanaka, sp. nov. [Figs. 1A, 2] e vicinia C. tuerckheimii a qua floribus erectis, non convolutis, staminodiis fere connatis, e basi notabiliter patentibus, et labellum recurvatis differt.

Plant 4–4.5 m tall. Rhizomes shortly tuberose, not stoloniferous. Leaves ovate to elliptic, acute to acuminate, decurrent at the base, dull green on both surfaces, 45–70 cm long, 20–35 cm wide, amplexicaul bases lanuginose. Inflorescences a terminal, spike-like raceme, many-branched, 30–45 cm long; bracts lanceolate, up to 10 cm long, 1.2–1.5 cm wide, acute at the apex; pedicels 1.2–1.5 cm long in bloom, 1.5–3 cm long in fruit. Flowers erect, often paired. Floriferous bracts oval-orbicular, reddish-white, glaucous, persistent, 1–2 cm long, 0.5–1 cm wide, glabrous, obtuse at the apex. Sepals 3, oblong-lanceolate, 1.5 cm long, 4–5 mm wide, reddish-white, glaucous, acute or rounded at the apex. Petals 3, red, sometimes whitish, lanceolate, rolled, 5–5.5 cm long, 1–1.2 cm wide. Staminodes usually 3, obovate to spatulate, conspicuously patent from the base, not reflexed at the apex, (6–) 7–8 cm long, 1–1.2 cm wide, red, obtuse or dentate at the apex. Labellum clearly recurved, 5.5–6 cm long, 8 mm wide, red, yellowish-orange at base, entire or dentate at the apex. Functional stamen with one-celled anther attached to its margin, 7–7.5 cm long, 5–6 mm wide, connate at the base, tube portion ca. 1 cm long; anther linear, 1–1.2 cm long. Pistill: ovary ellipsoid to ovoid-subglobose; style ob lanceolate, 6.5–7 cm long, 4 mm wide, red. Capsules subglobose, warty, crowned by the persistent calyx, many

Fig. 1. Comparison of *Canna tulianensis* (A) and *C. tuerckheimii* (B) in inflorescence shape.
seeded, 1–2(–3) cm long, 1–2.5 cm wide; seeds 2–10 per capsule, spherical to ellipsoidal, black, often mottled brown, 5–6 mm in diameter.

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