

# Notes on *Arisaema sikokianum*, *A. sazensoo* and *A. englerii*

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In the AGS <sup>1, 2</sup> paper on Japanese arisaemas, I wrote about the Japanese *A. sikokianum* and *A. sazensoo*:

I.. we encountered *A. sikokianum* on Shikoku and this species is not found on Kyushu.

II. *A. sazensoo* inhabits Kyushu and the last specimens we found were seen on Yakushima Island.

At the time of the paper in AGS <sup>1, 2</sup>, I wrote, being confident in the existing literature, that *A. sazensoo* was also found in continental China as *var. magnidens* and noted that a nice colour photo was shown in Lancaster's book *Travel in China*. Later, I had the occasion to cross the Sea of Japan and visit Korea and E. China, where both species are absent. I also visited Taiwan and Hong-Kong, and there also, no trace of these species is to be found.

After these travels, I read all the original descriptions and papers on the subject and progressively discovered that *A. sazensoo* has been, for a long time, in a confused state. A detailed study was published in 1997 <sup>3</sup> and Paul Christian put it on his web site. Accordingly, the Chinese plant was recognised as a different species and it was suggested that it was safer to use Pampanini's name *A. engleri* in place of *A. sazensoo var. magnidens*, *A. sazensoo var. henryanum*, or *A. sikokianum var. serratum* for the Chinese species to put an end to the existing mess.

*A. engleri* differs from *A. sazensoo* in many characteristics and furthermore there is an enormous geographical gap that separates these species. The interesting photos (of *A. sikokianum var. serratum*, *A. sikokianum*,) put on the web by Chen Yi, show plants that perfectly match *A. engleri*.

I hope this will clarify the situation.

1. Gusman, Guy 1997. Japanese *Arisaemas* (part one), *Quarterly Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society*, 65(1): 105-108.

2. Gusman, Guy 1997. Japanese *Arisaemas* (part two), *Quarterly Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society*, 65(2): 195-200.

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3. Gusman, Guy 1997. Note on the taxonomic position of the *Arisaema* (*Araceae*) species related to *A. sikokianum* Franch. & Sav. B. Jard. Bot. Nat. Belg. 66: 159-62.