

• 中文名稱： 姑婆芋

• 英文名稱： Giant Elephant's Ear

Alocasiaodora(Lodd.) Spach

• 學名： *Alocasia macrorrhiza*(海芋-中國植物誌)

Alocasia macrorrhiza(L.) Schott & Endl.

• 科名： 天南星科(Araceae)姑婆芋屬(Alocasia)

海芋(益都方物略記)，羞天草(庚辛玉冊)，隔河仙、天荷(本草綱目)，滴水芋、野芋(雲南元江)，黑附子(雲南富民)，麻芋頭、野芋頭(雲南紅河)，麻哈拉(哈尼族語)，大黑附子(雲南景洪)，天合芋(雲南文山)，大麻芋(雲南思茅)， “坡扣” (傣族語)，天蒙、樸芋頭(廣西)，大蟲樓、大蟲芋(廣西蒼梧)，老虎芋(廣西都安)，葡萄根(廣西玉林)，野芋頭(廣西凌樂)，野芋頭、痕芋頭、廣東狼毒(廣東)，野山芋(廣東海南)，尖尾野芋頭(廣東廣州)，狼毒(廣東、福建)，姑婆芋(福建)，山芋頭、木芋頭、觀音蓮、細葉姑婆芋，Bagaiyau(泰雅)、Kaiguwai(排灣)

1. Historical & Classical Names (from ancient Chinese texts):

- Haiyu (海芋 - "Sea Taro")
- Shu Tian Cao (羞天草 - "Sky-Shaming Herb")
- Ge He Xian (隔河仙 - "The Immortal across the River")
- Tian He (天荷 - "Heavenly Lotus")

• 別名：

2. Regional Names (mainland China):

- Yunnan: Dripping Taro (滴水芋), Wild Taro (野芋), Black Aconite (黑附子), Large Hemp Taro (大麻芋).
- Guangdong/Guangxi: Sky-Cover Taro (天蒙), Tiger Taro (老虎芋), Wolfsbane of Guangdong (廣東狼毒 - referring to its toxicity), Pointed-Tail Wild Taro (尖尾野芋頭).

3. Common Names in Taiwan:

- Gupo Taro (姑婆芋 - *The standard name in Taiwan*)
- Mountain Taro (山芋頭)
- Wood Taro (木芋頭)

- Buddha's Lotus / *Alocasia* (觀音蓮)
- Fine-Leaf Gupo Taro (細葉姑婆芋)

4. Indigenous Names (Taiwan):

- Bagaiyau (Atayal Tribe)
- Kaiguwai (Paiwan Tribe)

台灣、東南亞、南洋群島、澳洲 **Origin:**

• 原產地：

- Taiwan (It is an indigenous species).
- Southeast Asia.
- The Malay Archipelago (South Sea Islands).
- Australia.

生長在山谷疏林下的陰濕地，分布於中低山區。The **Giant Upright Elephant Ear** (*Alocasia* \$*Sodora*\$) is a quintessential understory plant in Taiwan's ecosystems. Here is the translation for its distribution:

• 分布：

Distribution (分布)

- **Habitat:** It grows in **shady, damp areas** under the sparse canopy of **mountain valleys**.
- **Altitude:** It is widely distributed across **low to mid-altitude mountainous regions**.

• 用途：

1. 庭園造景用：姑婆芋，是非常好的庭園造景植物。2. 包裝用：以前的人採摘姑婆芋的葉子，賣給菜市場的魚販或肉販，用來包裝販賣的魚肉。3. 藥用：根莖搗爛，可外敷腫毒。性味：根莖及莖：辛、寒、有毒。效用：清熱解毒，消腫散結，去腐生肌。治熱病高熱，流感，肺癆，傷寒，風濕關節痛，鼻塞流涕，腹痛、霍亂；外用治疗瘡腫毒，蟲蛇咬傷。The **Giant Upright Elephant Ear** (*Alocasia odora*) has a fascinating history of practical use in Taiwan, balancing its role as a beautiful garden plant, a traditional "plastic wrap," and a potent (though dangerous) medicine.

Uses (用途)

1. Landscaping & Ornamental Use:

- It is considered an **excellent plant for garden landscaping**, especially in shaded or

"tropical forest" themed areas.

2. Packaging:

- In the era before plastic bags, people would harvest the massive leaves and sell them to **fishmongers or butchers** in traditional wet markets. The sturdy, waterproof leaves were used to **wrap fresh fish and meat** for customers to carry home.

3. Medicinal (Traditional Medicine):

- **External Application:** The rhizome (rootstalk) can be mashed into a pulp and applied externally to treat **swollen poisons/toxins**.
- **Properties (Nature & Flavor):** The rhizome and stem are **acrid (spicy), cold, and toxic**.
- **Efficacy:** It is used to clear heat, detoxify, reduce swelling, and promote the healing of necrotic tissue.
- **Treatments:** Historically used for high fever, influenza, tuberculosis, typhoid, rheumatic joint pain, nasal congestion, abdominal pain, and cholera.
- **External Uses:** Applied to treat boils, carbuncles, and **insect or snake bites**.

莖肉質粗壯呈圓柱形，高可達 30~80 公分。Stem (莖)

• 莖：

- **Texture:** The stem is **succulent and stout** (fleshy/meat-like).
- **Shape:** It is **cylindrical** in form.
- **Height:** It can reach a height of **30 – 80 cm**

葉片半盾狀生或廣卵狀心形，先端銳尖，全緣，長可達 1 公尺，葉柄長，略包莖，葉鞘基部可積水。Leaf (葉) Characteristics

• 葉：

- **Shape:** The leaf blades are **semi-peltate** (the stalk is attached near the center) or **broadly ovate-cordate** (wide, heart-shaped).
- **Apex (Tip):** The tip is **acuminate** (tapering to a sharp point).
- **Margin: Entire** (smooth edges).
- **Size:** They are truly "giant," reaching lengths of up to **1 meter**.

- **Petiole (Leaf Stalk):** The stalks are very long and **sheath the stem** at their base.
- **Water Collection:** The leaf sheaths at the base are shaped in a way that can actually **collect and hold water**.

花序柄2~3 枚叢生，圓柱形，長12~60 公分，通常綠色，有時汗紫色。佛焰苞管部綠色，長3~5 公分，粗3~4 公分，卵形或短橢圓形；簷部蕾時綠色，花時黃綠色、綠白色，凋萎時變黃色、白色，舟狀，長圓形，略下彎，先端喙狀，長10~30 公分，周圍4~8 公分。肉穗花序芳香，雌花在下，雄花在上，中央為中性花；雌花序白色，長2~4 公分，不育雄花序綠白色，長 (2.5~)5~6 公分，能育雄花序淡黃色，長3~7 公分；附屬器淡綠色至乳黃色，圓錐狀，長3~5.5 公分，粗1~2 公分，圓錐狀，嵌以不規則的槽紋。□ **Flower Stalks (Peduncles):** 2 – 3 stalks grow in a cluster; they are **cylindrical**, 12 – 60 cm long, and usually **green** (though sometimes a "dirty" purple).

□ **Spathe (The "Hood"):**

- **Tube (Lower Part):** Green, 3 – 5 cm long, egg-shaped or short-elliptical.
- **Limb (Upper Part):** Boat-shaped and oblong, **10 – 30 cm long**. It curves slightly downward and ends in a beak-like tip.
- **Color Changes:** It starts green in the bud, turns **yellow-green or greenish-white** during bloom, and fades to yellow or white as it withers.

□ **Spadix (The "Spike"):** This is the fragrant part inside the hood. It is divided into layers:

- **Bottom:** Female flowers (White, 2 – 4 cm long).
- **Middle:** Sterile male flowers (Greenish-white, 5 – 6 cm long).
- **Top:** Fertile male flowers (Pale yellow, 3 – 7 cm long).
- **Appendix (The very tip):** Pale green to creamy yellow, cone-shaped (3 – 5.5 cm long), and covered in irregular grooves.

漿果球形，紅色，卵狀，長0.8~1.0 公分，粗0.5~0.8 公分，種子1~2。Fruit (果實)

Characteristics

- **Type:** Berry (succulent and fleshy).
- **Shape:** Spherical to ovate (egg-shaped).

• 花：

• 果：

- **Color:** A vibrant, bright **red** when mature.
- **Dimensions:** Small and delicate, measuring **0.8 – 1.0 cm long** and 0.5 – 0.8 cm thick.
- **Seeds:** Each berry contains **1 or 2 seeds**.

多年生直立性草本；根莖粗短，肉質；莖高 30~80 公分，具環形葉痕。葉片半盾狀生或廣卵狀心形，先端銳尖，全緣，長可達 1 公尺，葉柄長，略包莖，葉鞘基部可積水。花序柄常單生；春季開花，佛焰苞肉質，綠色；雌花在下，雄花在上，中央為中性花。漿果球形，紅色，具少數種子。臺灣常見的姑婆芋有姑婆芋(*Alocasia odora*(Lodd.) Spach)和台灣姑婆芋(*Alocasia cucullata*(Lour.) Schott)，姑婆芋的植株較台灣姑婆芋大，台灣姑婆芋的葉子尾尖明顯，又叫尖尾姑婆芋。**General Characteristics (特徵)**

• 特徵：

- **Growth Form:** A **perennial, upright herb** with a thick, short, fleshy rhizome.
- **The Stem:** Grows **30 – 80 cm tall** and is marked with **ring-shaped leaf scars** (where old leaves have fallen off).
- **The Leaves:** Large, heart-shaped (broadly ovate-cordate), and up to **1 meter long**. The leaf sheaths at the base of the long stalks can **collect and hold water**.
- **The Flowers:** Usually a **solitary flower stalk** appearing in **Spring**. The fleshy "hood" (spathe) is green, with female flowers at the bottom and male flowers at the top.
- **The Fruit:** Spherical **red berries** containing a few seeds.