

Taro: A Review of Colocasia Esculenta and Its Potentials

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Potentials and challenges of sustainable taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) production in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

During the past years, precisely 1965-1980, yam and taro reigned supreme in the Southern parts of Nigeria. Yam was the king and taro the queen. They were then the staple food of choice and were even offered to the gods. Their acceptance and ascendancy were challenged by the arrival and domestication of the easy growers (plantain, banana, maize and later cassava, tania and sweet potato). The easy growers gained recognition and prominence as staple foods and subsequently replaced the earlier staples. Thus, cassava and sweet potato superseded yam and taro respectively. Nutritionally, taro has broader compliments of vitamins and nutrients compared to other root and tuber crops. The domestication of the new crops which are relatively more yielding and at the same time enjoys international leverage in research and development pose enormous challenges for the future of taro as a major crop. Strategic options for increase in taro production and consumption should be on consumer education and on its nutritional and health benefits. Increased attention on taro research will provoke a better understanding and contributions the crop can offer in the areas of food security, health and economic empowerment. The paper now reviews some of the nutritional and medicinal benefits of taro. Its contributions as an industrial crop will also be highlighted with special emphasis on the challenges facing taro crop cultivation in Nigeria and the possible approaches to enhance its sustainable production.

1. INTRODUCTION

Taro, dasheen, old cocoyam or *Colocasia esculenta* Schott is a member of the Araceae family grown for its edible corms, cornels and leaves. Commonly known as taro, it is a staple vegetable crop that has been used as food for over 9,000 years making it one of the world's oldest food crops [1]. Taro is one of the most widespread of the root and tuber crops cultivated almost everywhere throughout the tropics [2]. Although toxic when raw like most cassava cultivars, edible when cooked, it has been acclaimed to have medicinal properties [3]. It is a lowland crop presumably because it is temperature sensitive and has high demand for moisture for their production probably because of their large transpiring surfaces [4]. Taro grows best in humid environments and most varieties do not tolerate drought. The crop can grow up to about 1-2 meters in height and produces

heart-shaped leaves. An annual rainfall of approximately 250 cm is recommended, although, they can be grown in upland areas where the rainfall is about 175 cm provided it is evenly distributed throughout the growing period. While high rainfall is needed during the first 20 weeks growth period corresponding to the period of maximum leaf development, thereafter drier conditions can be tolerated until harvest [5]. Sunitha *et al.*, [4] contends that there is a close relationship between rainfall received during 4th, 5th and 6th month period, which coincides with tuber bulking in taro. Hence, tuber bulking stage has been considered as the most critical period of water deficit stress in taro production. Under moisture deficit stress, taro shows significant reduction in leaf production, while tannin (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium*) manifests only a slight reduction in leaf number. Taro has a shallow root system and the majority of the roots are confined to a lateral spread of 40 cm and depth of 9 cm in the soil [6]. It responds well to N, P and K applications and is sometimes grown as a monocrop but is also widely planted in multiple cropping systems with other root crops including bananas,

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Taro, a review of colocasia esculenta and its potentials. Front Cover. Sally Higa Genus Colocasia. Anatomy and Morphology of Taro Colocasia esculenta L. Buy Taro: A Review of Colocasia Esculenta and Its Potentials on whataboutitaly.com ? FREE SHIPPING on qualified orders. Available in the National Library of Australia collection. Format: Book; xviii, p. : ill. ; 24 cm. This volume on taro production features chapters on the general background to the crop (taxonomy, anatomy and morphology, physiology and biochemistry). Taro a review of colocasia esculenta and its potentials. Taro, a review of colocasia esculenta and its potentials. Responsibility: edited by Jaw-Kai Wang, with the assistance of Sally Higa. Imprint: Honolulu: University. Citation: Banjaw DT () Review of Taro (Colocasia esculenta) Genetics still in the fields because of its potential in giving reasonable yield under conditions. Taro, a review of Colocasia esculenta and its potentials. []. Wang Jaw Kai Higa Sally Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganaderia, San Jose (Costa Rica). "Taro. A Review of Colocasia Esculenta and Its Potentials" (Book Review) This is a collection of fifteen short articles which were presented at the inaugural. whataboutitaly.com: Taro A Review of Colocasia Esculenta and Its Potentials: X X inches mildly used hardcover, no dj. binding remains solid, PO. Univ of Hawaii Pr, Hardcover. Very Good-. X X inches mildly used hardcover, no dj. binding remains solid, PO name to ffeep, no marks to text. In: Wang JK, Higa S (eds) Taro, a review of Colocasia esculenta and its potential. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, pp , pp Catherwood DJ. Utilization of taro as animal feed. In: J.K. Wang, ed. Taro: A Review of Colocasia esculenta and its Potentials. The University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, pp. Strauss M () Anatomy and morphology of taro. In: Wang JK (ed) Taro: a review of Colocasia esculenta and its potentials. University of Hawaii Press. Wildtype taro, and the recent history of cultivated taro in Cyprus and Hawaii. Taro, a Review of Colocasia esculenta and Its Potentials. University of Hawaii. University of Hawaii Press ex-library, octavo, beige cloth boards with red lettering to front board and spine, xix + pp, VG+ (light wear, library markings. Format: Book. Language: English. Published: Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, []. Subjects: Taro. Tags: Add Tag. No Tags, Be the first to tag this record. Taro (Colocasia esculenta) is a tropical tuber crop largely produced for its (PDF) Tarin, a Potential Immunomodulator and COX? Inhibitor Lectin Found in Taro. A review paper on aroids: taro (Colocasia esculenta (L) Schott); Kongkong taro (Xanthosoma Taro, a review of Colocasia esculenta and its potentials.

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