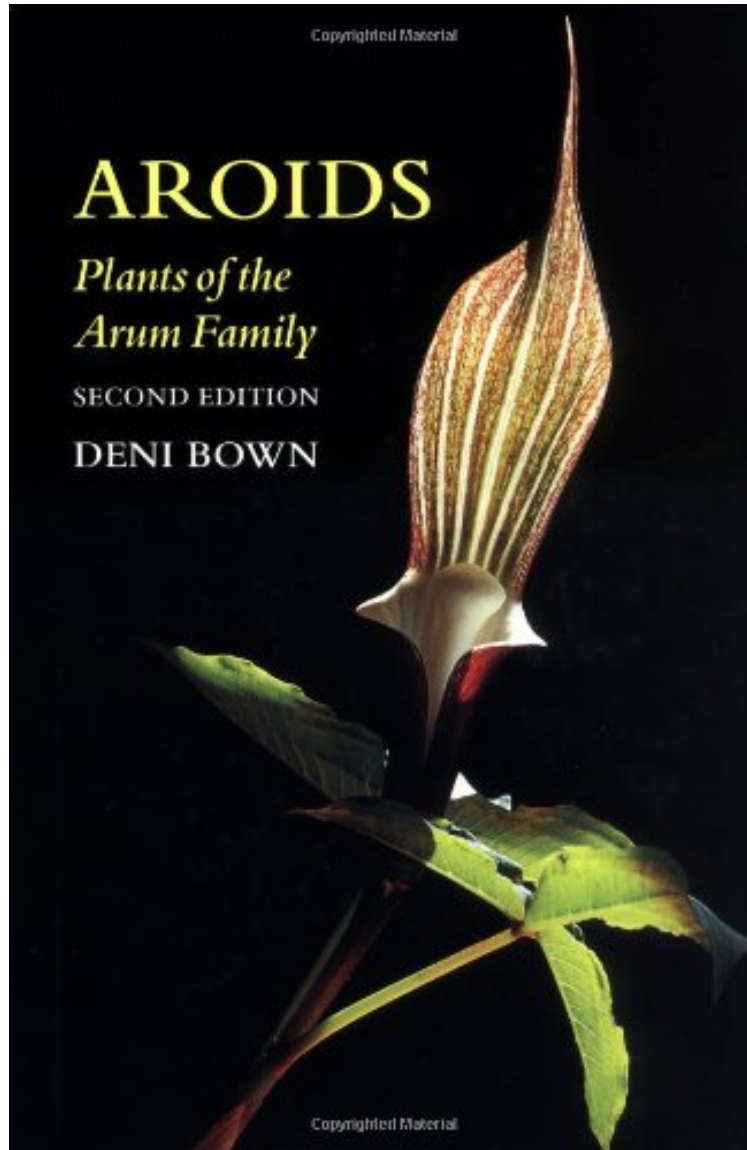


[Read free] Aroids: Plants of the Arum Family

## Aroids: Plants of the Arum Family

*Deni Bown*

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**Deni Bown : Aroids: Plants of the Arum Family** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aroids: Plants of the Arum Family:

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stsbanditgreat book met the author1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A cool corner of the plant kingdomBy J. M. MorrisonIf your tastes are a little nonstandard, you will enjoy growing the plants described in this book. I am lucky enough to live in Chapel Hill, NC. Its benign climate is ideal for growing hordes of very cool, very weird plants. Great effort!

Originally published in 1988 as the first truly comprehensive review of one of the largest and most popular plant families, *Aroids* was enthusiastically welcomed by botanists and horticulturists alike for its attention to scientific detail and delightful writing style. Now in this completely updated second edition, we learn of discoveries made in the last decade as the family has grown from about 2500 species to nearer 3200. The latest taxonomic and nomenclatural revisions are noted in the checklist of genera, and all the original drawings are included plus twice as many color photos. A new guide to the cultivation of ornamental aroids completes this well-rounded introduction to a remarkable family.

"...the stories told by Deni Brown will bring either a knowing smile to your face or a smirk of amusement." -- *Hawaiian Horticulture*"I started out reading this book with an interest in aroids. I finished so excited...I started looking ...for an aroid society to join here in Hawaii." -- *Hawaiian Horticulture*"If you have any interest in this large plant family at all, Deni Bown's book is a must-have for your library." -- *Hawaiian Horticulture*"It makes for some fascinating reading." -- *Choice*"This book is extremely well written...Its a fascinating book, and you'll be a better gardener for having read it." -- *Clear Englebert, Feng Shui 2000*"A tantalizing and wide ranging read on the natural history of aroids." -- *Fergus Garrett, Gardens Illustrated, October 2001*"A well produced high quality book with masses of useful information." -- *The World of The Rhododendron Newsletter, Winter 2000*"If you have any interest in this large plant family at all, Bown's book is a must-have for your library." -- *Hawaiian Horticulture, November 2000*"This book is extremely well written ... Its a fascinating book, and you'll be a better gardener for having read it" -- *Clear Englebert, Feng Shui 2000*"While she certainly doesn't stint on scientific information, Bown has given us an eminently readable book." -- *Susan Knorr, Garden Views, September 2000*"From the Publisher"In this compelling natural history, Deni Bown emphasizes the habitats and ecology of aroids, their anatomy and reproduction, their medicinal and folk uses, and their potential as food crops. All the aroids have devised cunning schemes to attract pollinators and survive adverse conditions, from the extraordinary mouse plant, which emits a mushroom-like smell and mimics the underside of a fungus to lure fungus gnats, to the ordinary jack-in-the-pulpit, which changes sex from year to year depending on environmental conditions. Other bizarre features of the aroid lifecycle are described in depth as the author covers representative species in the aroid genera."From the Author"From an interview with Deni Bown: *Timber Press: What has been the most interesting development to aroids since the first edition of your book, which was published in 1988?* Deni Bown: "From the botanical standpoint, there have been three major developments. Firstly, a huge increase in the number of species in the family, from around 2500 when I wrote the first edition, to nearer 3200 today and still growing. This increase is largely due to regions of South East Asia, such as Vietnam and Laos, becoming accessible to botanists after being no-go areas for so many years. Tropical rain forests in Central and South America continue to offer up new species before breakfast too, but there have even been new species found on our doorstep, including in well-trodden areas of the Mediterranean. The second, and perhaps more dramatic development, are the taxonomic changes in the family that in time will filter through to anyone involved with gardening or horticulture. For example, the genus *Acorus*, which was always an odd-ball among aroids, has exited at last -- hived off into its own family -- and the duckweeds (*Lemnaceae*) have entered the fold. The result of this inclusion is that the aroid family is now probably the most extreme plant family on the planet, with *Amorphophallus titanum* at one end of the spectrum (its inflorescence, at 6 - 8 feet tall, is the largest in *Araceae* and arguably the largest unbranched inflorescence in the world), and the miniscule *Wolffia* (so minute that an entire plant is smaller than a pinhead) at the other end. The final interesting development is the huge increase in interest in the family since (and partly because of) the first edition of *Aroids: Plants of the Arum Family*, with more botanists specializing in the group and more people growing them.