Growing your Anchomanes seed

Anchomanes is a genus of Aroids from Western Africa. The species I currently have for sale, A.difformis, is a spiky stemmed plant growing to around 1.8 metres. The flower is typical Aroid with a pale cream spadix. The inside of the spathe is creamy green and the reverse maroon in colour.

Sow your seeds on a well drained medium such as 50% potting mix and 50% sand or fine scoria or similar material. Cover them with a light coat of sifted potting material. Keep them in a very bright, filtered light location and maintain consistent moisture levels, not sopping wet, just nice and damp. The seeds should germinate fairly quickly.

When the seedlings show a leaf shoot, carefully transplant them to 7.5 cm pots using an open potting medium such as Searle’s premium brand with around 25% coarse river sand or 5 mm scoria gravel added to the mix. Add a pinch only of Osmocote to each pot and water well. Keep your plants in very bright filtered light and do not let them dry out.

The seedlings may grow on for one or two seasons before they go dormant, this is to build up a reserve in the stocky rhizome. Don’t be worried if they die back in the Autumn.

Pot on as needed using the same potting medium. When the plant dies back, slightly reduce watering, I do not let my plants totally dry out. In spring, increase the watering a little and eventually the plants will re-emerge.

The only major pests of this plant are chewing insects such as Grasshoppers and Caterpillars, these can simply be crushed or sprayed with the insecticide Carbaryl if the infestation is heavy. In locations with poor air movement, Mealy Bug can cause trouble, a dab of Metholated spirit on a cotton bud with sort minor problems, or a systemic pesticide such as Confidor or Rogor may be used.

Best of success with your seeds, do contact me if I can be of any further help.

Regards

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