Costus villosissimus Jacquin
**Costus villosissimus** Jacquin

Native to “Northwestern South America, Central America (there mostly confined to Panama), Jamaica, and St. Vincent; in riverbank forests, foothill forests, lowland thickets, and swamps, from sea level to 1100 m.” -- Maas (1972) Fl. Neotr. 8: 48.

**1937:** [E.L.C. to H.L.L.] "Several species of plants not previously recorded were found reproducing naturally in various parts of the Arboretum. … Among the smaller plants, … two Central American spiral gingers, *Costus villosissimus* and *Dimerocostus uniflorus*, … were found growing in places where they had not been planted.” In 1938 they are listed as volunteering only near the mother plantings. **2002:** Quite localized and not a problem. --RFB

**Lyon L-67.0478,** from Panama: collected by E. Caum, either 5174 or 5173 (Gatun Road). Planted in Heliconia Valley, above A7, in 1931. In Sept. 1967 Don Anderson and Bob Hirano dug it up from along a trail in Aihualama, and in 1970 planted 18 in Aroid Valley. (This would be L-67.0219.) It is also planted along Agee trail in Caum’s Gulch. Voucher: Ken Nagata KMN 632 at HLA, USPQ (Hon). DNA sample to Chelsea Specht.

**L-94.0409,** from Jack Craig, Indonesia. Planted 10' makai/DH of A9-23-1 *Psidium*, below *Vanda*.

**K.Nagata**