The Cryptanthus Society Journal

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THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY JOURNAL

Vol. XXVI No. 1 **Jan-Mar 2011**

Front Cover: We continue to publish with permission new *Cryptanthus* species discovered and described by Elton M.C. Leme. This third of three parts will feature *Cryptanthus tiradentesensis*. The complete article first appeared in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society, Vol.57, No.6, 2007, pp. 259-263 & 267-271. Photo on the front cover of *Cryptanthus tiradentesensis* by Elton Leme.

Back Cover: Photographs of the habitat in the Espinhaço Range, Minas Gerais, Brazil where the three new species as well as several other xeric Cryptanthus species were discovered by Elton Leme. See back page for original captions. Photographs by Elton Leme.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

First and foremost, may we please take a moment to recognize the recent devastation, destruction and loss of human life in Japan due to the unforeseen Tsunami that recently struck that country. This unfortunate tragedy has brought many individuals from various geographical regions of different race, religion and color together and fortunately, through this there has been an outpouring of support, assistance and aid offered to a suffering nation. Please know the Cryptanthus Society wishes to show our respect to all individuals that have suffered from this current event, especially our fellow Japanese hobbyists; know we will keep them in our thoughts and prayers in the days and months ahead as they rebuild their lives. We **must** all look forward...

In the last published CSJ, your Editor, Secretary and President all shared information about our 2011 International Cryptanthus Show being held later this year. Please note the information is also published in this issue as well. We, the CS Board, are very pleased this event is once again returning to Florida and hope all CS members and interested individuals will support, attend and participate in this event. Understanding the actual growing season is coming up quickly, we all should have beautiful Cryptanthus plants and offsets to share for exhibition at this show and to include in the sale and auction to be held at this event. Remember, the International Cryptanthus Show, gigantic sale with vendors from the Southeastern US and the joint CS & FCBS Rare Plant Auction is being held in conjunction with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Bromeliad Extravaganza, an event many people from around the country (and world) will be attending. This event has a reputation for including vendors, who are excellent growers of bromeliads of all kinds, including Cryptanthus, selling at affordable prices. So, it's easy to understand why interested individuals travel from near and far to add to their collections - quality and uncommon bromeliads, yes, including Cryptanthus.

So, plan ahead and come to Daytona Florida later this year… see for yourself what all the FCBS Extravaganza/ Cryptanthus Society Show and Sale and Rare Plant Auction *FUSS* is all about.

In closing, may you all be blessed with much better days, especially those individuals living in the devastated areas of Japan. Take a moment to reflect on your own fortunes and keep those in need in your thoughts, actions and prayers. Remember, this or another tragedy could have happened to you, me or any one of us. Love and compassion are a universal language.

Steve Hoppin , CS President

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that it's already March, and will probably be April by the time you are reading this. It's been a challenging year for me so far, having had total knee replacement surgery in January and trying my best to get back up to speed. It's not been easy, but the knee is finally starting to work like a real knee, although I'm told it'll be a while before it becomes better than before. At least it's strong enough to allow me to judge some bromeliad shows, which I'm really looking forward to. Because next winter or early next year, it'll be the other knee's turn...

Because of my surgery and Rick's before that, our bromeliads had a pretty tough time this winter. It was another cold one, so we had to protect as best as we could. Because neither of us was feeling 100%, watering became a neglected chore and the broms didn't appreciate that either. So, we've lost more plants from our collection than normal this year. Because below freezing temperatures lasted a number of days, we lost most plants left outside (even our cold-hardy Dyckias got hurt). Plants on the ground protected by freeze cloth stood the best chance of survival. The Cryptanthus actually did reasonably well inside the greenhouse and even in the garage, but pretty much all of them left outside were toast.

Our spring is really here in Houston. We've opened up the greenhouse (of course, we did so the day before the nighttime temperatures dropped back into the 40s, a little surprise from the weather forecasters). Wildflowers, including bluebonnets, azaleas and primroses, are in full bloom and just beautiful, a real Texas treat. I think we've earned it!

Again, thanks to our generous donors for their support: Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society and Bromeliad Society/Houston. A recent change in the printer of the Journal is threatening to bump up our printing costs, so every bit helps. Hope to see you at an upcoming show, and don't forget to plan on attending the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Extravaganza and the 12th International Cryptanthus Show in Florida in November.

Carole Richtmyer, CS Secretary

EDITOR'S EDICT

Since joining "Planet Bromeliad" and "Planet Cryptanthus" (See article in CSJ, Vol.XXV, No. 4, Oct-Dec 2010), I have been made more aware of the extent to which Cryptanthus are available and being grown throughout the world. Species and hybrids that I thought were in limited supply or "rare", are being sold in garden markets in many countries. It is also interesting to see how growers' different conditions affect the appearance of specific plants, all this on computer screen from the comfort of my desk chair. Most of the photographs posted of Cryptanthus on these sites show beautiful, healthy and well grown plants; excellent examples of the plant type, as would be expected. However, there has been some neglect to the labeling of the photographs. In a way this paucity of names is understandable. Some hobbyists do ask for an ID when posting their photos, while others buy plants for their beauty and are not particularly interested in their names, so don't know. And sellers are not very interested in or have not been provided the details of the plants' cultivar or species names from their suppliers.

Why do your plants need names anyway? One important reason is that plants, which are used as exhibits in a standard BSI show, in order to be eligible for major awards, which are the Milford B. Foster Award and the Sections' and Divisions' awards, must be labeled with their parentage or a duly registered name. It is a shame to enter a beautiful plant, which you went to great efforts to get ready for a show, only to have it unable to compete with plants less perfect, for top awards. Conscientious hybridizers use mostly plants with pedigrees or named plants in their breeding programs. Of course, this is not a strict requirement to registering a new hybrid, but I suspect part of the excitement of creating your own new hybrid is knowing its genetic background and planning for future crosses. And for sellers, named plants create a larger market for their wares; buyers are often looking for specific named plants that they have heard about or seen

Hopefully growers and collectors, who participate in these blogs such as Planet Cryptanthus, will try to label their photographs or ask for help with identification. Maybe the plant is no more valuable with a formal name or its parentage on the tag, but it won't hurt its prestige in your collection any.

From previous CS Journals you will recall Chanin Thorut of Bangkok Thailand and his unique Cryptanthus cultivars. Recent post by Chanin to Planet Cryptanthus was this 12 inch wide, blooming *Cryptanthus argyrophyllus.* He has also made some crosses with this heavily scurfed species. Photo by Chanin Thorut.

Above (L) is *Cryptanthus acaulis* 'Variegata' and (R) *Cryptanthus lacerdae* 'Menescal'. Both are recent purchases of Ho Wanzo from a nursery in Taiwan. Ho claims that the 'Menescal' has become one of her favorite bromeliads. Photos by Ho Wanzo.

Given to him by a close friend several years ago, this still relatively rare xeric *Cryptanthus whitmanii,* named for Bob Whitman was added to Hiroshi Yabe's vast collection of xeric bromeliads. Besides numerous dyckias and hechtias, Hiroshi grows other Cryptanthus species including *warasii* and *caracensis*. Photo by Hiroshi Yabe

In Indonesia, on the island of Java, PaDhe de Rose grows Cryptanthus in dish gardens. This grouping of several *Cryptanthus acaulis* 'Variegata', *Cryptanthus bivittatus* 'Ruby' and presumably *Cryptanthus acaulis* 'LeRey' survive very well in a well draining bowl. When researching this area, I discovered that in the city of Bogar, nicknamed "the Rain City" due to its daily rain showers during the wet season, where PaDhe grows his plants, there was established in 1817 one of the first botanical gardens in this region of the World (*Kebun Raya)*. It still exists and remains a major center for botanical research. Photo by PaDhe de Rose.

At Bromeliads, Etc. in South Kona on the big island of Hawaii, horticulturist Evan Mark Bartholomew and nursery co-owner Joan Darby have made Cryptanthus popular on the island by making available many colorful cultivars and species, such as this *Cryptanthus bromelioides* "Red form". I'm jealous of the color since even in Florida we can't get the red color throughout the leaves as they can in the Hawaiian sun. Photo by Jeremy Kanyo.

2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza

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As the Show Chair of the upcoming International Cryptanthus Show (ICS), being held in Daytona Beach Florida, I will be updating attendees on the details of the show in this and future issues of the Cryptanthus Society Journal. In addition, information will be available on the FCBS website as well as from other sources. In this issue I am presenting a tentative schedule and procedures for entering and exhibiting your Cryptanthus in the November show. Please check these pages out and plan your travel arrangements to be able to participate in the International Cryptanthus Show.

Dr. Larry Giroux, CS Editor

We continue to publish with permission new *Cryptanthus* species discovered and described by Elton M. C. Leme. This third of three parts will feature *Cryptanthus tiradentesensis*. The complete article first appeared in the Journal of the Bromeliad Society, Vol.57, No.6, 2007, pp.259-263 & 267-271.

Three Subtle New *Cryptanthus* Species from Espinhaço Range, Minas Gerais, Brazil

By Elton M.C.Leme Illustrations by the author

Hoplocryptanthus Mez is a subgenus of *Cryptanthus* Otto & A. Dietr., which can be distinguished from the typical subgenus by some important features The plants usually have strongly perfumed flowers which are perfect, with petals broadly spatulate or obovate, length up to three times the width of the lobes, which may be almost orbicular. The stigma is compact, simple-erect, with short, wide blades; or the stigmatic blades are slenderly tubular and conduplicate at extreme apex. The fruits have more numerous and smaller seeds. Species of *Hoplocryptanthus* usually grow in higher altitudes (i.e., above ca. 500 m elev.) when compared to the typical cryptanthus, and have a more restricted geographical distribution, being found only in wet sites in the Atlantic Forest of Espírito Santo State and in wet to drier conditions in the "Campos Rupestres" of the Espinhaço range of Minas Gerais State. Also, these species are morphologically more similar to the species of *Orthophytum* Beer than the remaining typical cryptanthus.

In the Espinhaço range of Minas Gerais State, the most commonly seen *Hoplocryptanthus* member is *Cryptanthus schwackeanus* Mez. However, recent field collections in different and sometimes isolated mountains of the Espinhaço range have revealed some new taxa closely related to *C. schwackeanus,* but distinguishable by a set of subtle morphological characteristics, including the three species described below. (Editor's note: Only *Cryptanthus tiradentesensis* is included in this publication; for the description of *Cryptanthus lavrasensis* refer to CSJ, Vol. XXIV No.2, Apr-Jun 2009 and for *Cryptanthus regius* refer to CSJ, Vol. XXIV No. 3, Jul-Sept 2009.)

Cryptanthus tiradentesensis Leme, sp. nov. **Type**: Minas Gerais. Tiradentes, Serra de São José, vertente sul, Caminho dos Escravos, ca. 1,200 m elev., 23 July 2003, *E. Leme 5819*. Holotype: HB.

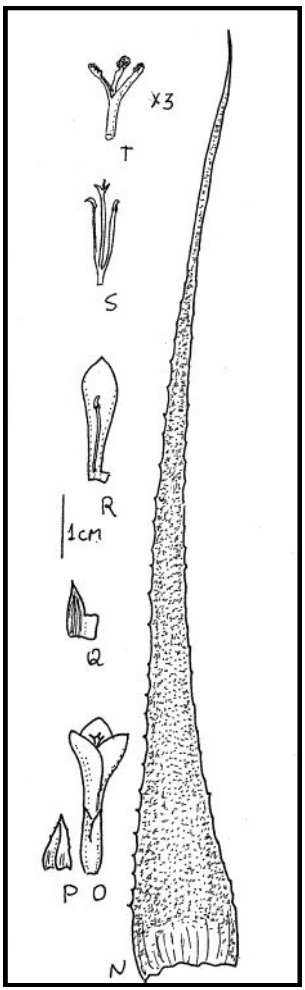
(L) *Cryptanthus lavrasensis* and (r) *Cryptanthus regius*, the two other *Cryptanthus* described by Leme in the original publication of this article. Photos by Elton Leme.


Above are the two previously described *Cryptanthus*, which are the closest related species to *Cryptanthus tiradentesensis*. Left is *Cryptanthus schwackianus* (photo from CSA), which Leme has found to be the most commonly seen *Hoplocryptanthus* member in the Espinhaço range of Minas Gerais State. To the right is *Cryptanthus caracensis* (photo by Elton Leme), also native to Gerais State with many similarities to the newly described species.

Species nova a *C. schwackeanus* Mez, affinis, foliis utrinque dense vel subdense et grosse albo-lepidotis, laminis foliorum marginibus spinis minoribus, sepalis longioribus, petalis haud callosis differt; a *C. caracensis* Leme & Gross, cui proxima, sed laminis foliorum brevioribus angustioribusque, bracteis floriferis duplo vel triplo angustioribus, altitudinem sepalorum distincte brevioribus, floribus minoribus, petalis base breviter connatis differt.

Plant saxiculous or rupicolous, stemless, 3-5 cm long, 18-28 cm in diameter, propagating by short basal rhizomes. ***Leaves*** 13-18 in number, suberect to nearly spreading, forming a lax, open round rosette; ***sheaths*** suborbicular, 1.5 x 1.7 cm, densely and coarsely white-lepidote toward the apex, densely spinulose toward apex, greenish; ***blades*** narrowly triangular, long acuminate, 9 -15 x 0.9-1.1 cm, green except for the dark red margins, coriaceous or nearly so, nerved mainly abaxially, canaliculate, adaxially subdensely to densely white-lepidote, trichomes to obscuring leaf color, abaxially densely and coarsely white-lepidote, trichomes obscuring leaf color, margins with spines acicular, dark red, 0.5-1.5 mm long, 2-7 mm apart, the basal ones spreading densely arranged ca. 2-3 mm apart, the upper ones strongly antrorse-uncinate, subdensely to laxly arranged 5-7 mm apart. ***Inflorescence*** distinctly bipinnate, with 14 to 20 flowers; ***primary bracts*** foliaceous; ***fasicles*** the basal ones 2 to 4 -flowered, flabellate, complanate, 7-10 mm wide, basal peduncle ca. 3 x 3 mm; ***floral bracts*** ovate-triangular, acuminate, ca. 9 x 4 mm, membranaceous, greenish except for the hyaline margins, obscurely and irregularly spinulose toward apex, spines uncinate, carinate, nerved, sparsely and coarsely white-lepidote toward apex to glabrescent, slightly exceeding the ovary; ***flowers*** 24-26 mm long (with extended petals), sessile or nearly so with a inconspicuous

pedicel ca. 1 mm long, fragrant; ***sepals*** narrowly ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, 8-10 x 2 mm, subequally connate at base for 3-4 mm, entire, sparsely to subdensely and coarsely white-lepidote, green; ***petals*** spatulate, apex acute to obtuse and slightly if at all cucullate, 20-21 x 6-7 mm, very narrow toward base, connate at base for 1-2 mm in a common tube with the filaments and style, suberect at anthesis, distinctly exceeding the stamens, white, without callosities; ***filaments*** ca.13 mm long, adnate for 1-2 mm to the common tube with petals and style; ***anthers*** 2-3 mm long, fixed near the base, base sagittate, apex apiculate; ***pollen*** narrowly ellipsoid, sulcate, exine irregularly microreticulate, appearing corrugate, muri thickened; ***stigma*** conduplicate, white, stylar lobes terete, suberect to subspreading, ca. 2 mm long, linear, apex obtuse, at apex margins inconspicuously papillose. ***Ovary*** ca. 4 x 2.5 mm, trigonous, greenish; epigynous lacking; placentation apical; ovules obtuse. ***Fruits*** unknown.



Paratype: Minas Gerais. Tiradentes, Serra de São José, Jul. 2001, *B. R. Silva s. n*., fl. cult. *E. Leme 5240* (HB); Serra de São José, vertente sul, Caminho dos Escravos, ca. 1,200 m elev., 23 July 2003, *E. Leme 5825* (HB); São João Del Rey divisa com Tiradentes, Serra de São José, ca. 700 m elev., 30 Nov. 2003, *E. Leme 6117* & *R. Leme* (HB);

Cryptanthus tiradentesensis differs from *C. schwackeanus* by the leaves densely to subdensely and coarsely white-lepidote on both sides (vs. adaxially glabrous), sepals longer (8-10 mm vs. 6-7 mm long), and by the petals without any callosities. It is also similar to *C. caracensis*, but can be distinguished from it by the leaves shorter and narrower (9-15 x 0.9-1.1 cm vs. 15-35 x 1.3-1.9 cm), floral bracts twice to three times narrower (ca. 4 mm vs. 8-14 mm wide) and distinctly shorter than the sepals (vs. about equaling the sepals), smaller flowers (24-26 mm vs. 30 mm long), and by the petals shorter connate at base (1-2 mm vs. 5 -7 mm).

Cryptanthus tiradentesensis is a saxicolous species of the "Campos Rupestres", growing among rock

Cryptanthus tiradentesensis **Leme (N-T): N) adaxial leaf surface; O) flower; P) floral bract; Q) sepal; R) petal; S) stamens and pistil; T) stigma blades (drawing E. Leme).**

outcrops partially shaded by shrubs or on almost bare full exposed rock surfaces, from 700 to 1,200 m elevation, along the borders of Serra de São José, which faces the historical city of Tiradentes that inspired its name. The area is rich of rupicolus bromeliad species, revealing some interesting taxa like *Aechmea disticantha* Lem., *A. nudicaulis* (L.) Griseb., and *Dyckia argentea* Mez to name a few.

Flower detail of *Cryptanthus tiradentesensis* (Leme 5819) clonotype plant that flowered in cultivation (photo E. Leme).

View of Serra de São José from the historical city of Tiradentes, Minas Gerais state (photo E. Leme).

Cryptanthus—Terrestrial Jewels

By Karen Andreas

Commonly known as "Earth Stars," the members of the genus Cryptanthus are true terrestrials; these bromeliads need soil to grow. Cryptanthus species are found in eastern Brazil where they grow in sun and shade, wet conditions and, sometimes dry, on the coast and in forests. First described in 1836, the name Cryptanthus comes from *"crypt,"* meaning "hidden" and *"anthos"* which means flower. Cryptanthus do not have inflorescences that extend above the leaves; the white flowers bloom from the center of the plant (or from between leaves); hence they are "hidden flowers."

Cryptanthus come in a surprising variety of colors, patterns and forms. Colors include brown, rose, green, chartreuse, gray, copper, pink, black, and red. Scurf — that dusty looking substance on the leaves — appears as silver or white stripes, chevrons or other markings. Examples of its various forms include *Crypt. microglazioui, Cryptanthus beuckeri* with its spoon shaped leaves, *Cryptanthus lutherianus* which has long narrow leaves, *Cryptanthus* `Elaine' with its broad, long, leaves. There are small forms, long

Examples of the patterns, colors and forms of Cryptanthus. (Top to bottom) *Cryptanthus fosterianus* 'Elaine', *microglazioui* and *lutherianus*. Photos by Larry Giroux.

forms, cascading forms and twisted forms like *Cryptanthus* 'Whirligig'.

These terrestrials like to be on or near the ground. From my own growing experience, I've seen major improvements in Cryptanthus when we plant them in the ground or sink the pot or simply place the pot on the ground. Provide them bright light such as morning light or filtered sunlight, and you will be rewarded with strong color and good form. Cryptanthus do not have water tanks as their epiphytic bromeliad cousins do. Consequently, Cryptanthus depend on moisture from the potting media as well as from watering the leaves. Do use a potting media that drains well but does not stay soggy wet. I use I use capillary mats on the Cryptanthus bench in the shade house and have seen good results from providing a constant source of moisture without saturating the soil.

Do not under-pot these bromeliads. "If grown in pots, the pot should be wider than it is deep, as the root systems prefer to spread out rather than go downwards," notes Andrew Steens in *Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden.*

Use a slow release fertilizer such as Nutricote in the soil mix when potting Cryptanthus. I have also had good luck using Miracle Grow soil as my Cryptanthus medium because of the time-release fertilizer that comes with that mix. As true terrestrials, they absorb nutrition from their roots.

Frost and cold winds are damaging, as you would expect in bromeliads from the forest floor. However, the canopy of trees or other over story such as shrubs or *a Philodendron selloum* often provide enough protection. To be safe, be prepared to provide cover or move the Cryptanthus to a protected place in case of frost or freeze. Cold damage will show up quickly in the leaves.

Removing pups from Cryptanthus is very easy. The pups will come from the base of the mother plant as well as from between the leaves. After the pup reaches about half the size of the mother plant, tug gently on one of its leaves. If the pup resists, do not force it to release. When it is ready, it will release easily. You may need to peel off the very small lower leaves so it will plant easily. Use a root stimulator such as RootTone to provide fungus protection and encourage root growth. You may also need to stake the Cryptanthus until its roots develop, often a slow process.

Some Cryptanthus, such as 'Menescal', send pups out on long stolons (stems). Rather than cut off the stolons to plant the pups, you can place a pot nearby, let the stolon grow into the pot and allow the pup to take root. Again, you may need to stake the pup or the stolon so the roots will grow.

Cryptanthus used as accent and companion plants in the landscape have quite an impact. The colors and low growth habit provide a dramatic look in any garden.

If you would like to learn more about Cryptanthus, consider joining The Cryptanthus Society, which publishes a Journal four times a year. More

information about The Cryptanthus Society is available at fcbs.org on the opening page.

To see pictures of the Cryptanthus mentioned in this article - and to browse these wonderful, colorful bromeliads - go to fcbs.org and click on the Photo Index, then Cryptanthus.

In November, we will have a wonderful opportunity to be a part of The Cryptanthus Society's International Show, being held in conjunction with the FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza. Not only will you have an opportunity to enter your beautiful Cryptanthus into the show, you also will be able to expand your collection at the sale and auction!

(Editor's note: CS member Karen Andreas is the Editor of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies' Newsletter. She lives and grows her Cryptanthus on Merritt Island on the East coast of Florida. You can contact her at Karen@fcbs.org. Her article first appeared in the FCBS Newsletter, Vol.30 Issue 4, November 2010.)

***Cryptanthus lacerdae* 'Menescal' and *acaulis* 'Whirligig' with their stoloniferous habit, make great hanging basket plants. Note in the photo above the Cryptanthus snuggled among other bromeliads in this planter. Photos by Larry Giroux.**

Not to slight our members who grow in the cooler climates, where they find the need to grow Cryptanthus in greenhouses or indoors for a great part of the year, I'm reprinting an article, which first appeared in the CSJ, Vol. XVI No. 3, Jul-Sept by former Massachusetts member, Doris "Dee Dee" Bundy.

Yes, I grow Cryptanthus in New England!!

By Dee Dee Bundy, Manchester, Ma.

People are amazed that I grow Bromeliads in this part of the country. I became interested in this plant family in the '70s, and I haven't given up yet! Here are some cultural tips to keep in mind.

Soil: I find these plants like well-drained soil. The water should come right out of the pot when poured in the top. (Some growers tell people not to water the soil!) I use a regular potting mix, but add sand and perlite and compost from my garden, if it is available.

Water: They love to be watered well and like a damp atmosphere. But let them dry out before watering again. (I do know someone who grows them in plain water!) I would say that it also depends where you grow Cryptanthus. I grow all of mine under lights. If you have them on windowsills, you must watch the weather, and water only on a sunny day. December through February are crucial months here because it is very cold and cloudy. The plants should not stay wet, or dry out.

Light: The plants love bright light! I have two or four-bulb fluorescent light set-ups feet long in three rooms in the house and under the benches in the greenhouse. At least one bulb in each set-up should be a grow light. It brings out the brightest color of leaves, especially in the pink varieties. The others can be cool or warm lights. I have found that groups

The various patterned and colored Cryptanthus do very well in terrariums, either lighted or unlighted. Pups, as they become too large for the container, can be easily switched out for different plants.

of four are best.

Temperature: 55 degrees 75 degrees. They do like warm temperatures, but some can take colder temperatures, but not for a long period of time. (I lost heat in my greenhouse twice this year, and had to have the heater replaced in January!)

Fertilizer: I do not use any fertilizer from December to March. I usually use whatever it is in the house. My favorite is Neptune's Harvest, a fish by-product, which is made locally. In the past few years I had been adding Osmocote to the soil, which seems to cut down on the effort of thinking about fertilizing. I do not use any that discolors the plant leaves, and turns them blue or green.

Humidity: Cryptanthus love humidity and thrive on it. I have my plants in trays on top of pebbles. This gets a little messy when I have to clean them out and get new stones. I also have a humidifier in one room. I mist them almost daily. I also grow them on top of egg crate with the trays below. Try some in terrariums! You would be surprised at what little care is needed!

Propagation: The pups are ready to plants when they are wiggly at the top of the plant, or easily twisted out. I find that they root better in the fall or spring. The plants should be potted in an appropriate size pot. After potting, water, but do not disturb or move the plant, because the root system might not stay intact. Use bottom heat, if you have it. I sometimes use a baggy, and leave it open once I know the roots are established.

Have some fun: I encourage everyone to try these! They are rewarding, colorful plants! I came home with 17 from the convention (small and easy to pack! And the price was right!)

CS Secretary, Carole Richtmyer, raises her seedlings under florescent lights year round as well as for protection of more precious specimens during the winter. Growing in front of windows also works well for Cryptanthus.

Affiliate Show Reports

Please submit Show Report Forms, which you received with your award plaques, with high quality pictures as photographs or electronic pictures (jpg or tif) (slides may be sent, but only the Cryptanthus should fill the frame without the awards) to:

Flo Adams, Affiliates' Chairperson
3106 Clear Lake Court Arlington, Texas 76017

Bromeliad Society of Broward County Show
March 25th -27th, 2011 Volunteer Park, Plantations Florida
Photographs and information submitted by Larry Giroux

The Bob Whitman Best Cryptanthus Species Award
***Cryptanthus zonatus f. fuscus* Exhibitor—Shirley Konfal**

The Warren Loose Best Hybrid Award
***Cryptanthus* 'Spotlight' Exhibitor—Kenny Seesahai**

The Best Judges' Entry Award
Cryptanthus argyrophyllus **Exhibitor—Larry Giroux**

International Cryptanthus Show Exhibition Schedule

By Larry Giroux

In past years, actually every other year since 1986, since the founding of the Cryptanthus Society, the CS has had an International Cryptanthus Show (ICS) in conjunction with a hosting society having their own BSI Standard Show. The last ICS was a very successful show in Baton Rouge Louisiana. This year we are having an independent show, hosted by the East Coast Bromeliad Society and the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. This means the host societies will not have a show running simultaneously with ours. Also the typical timetable for a bromeliad show, which has been historically: Entries on Thursday afternoon and/or Friday morning and judging all afternoon Friday, will not be possible this year. The Extravaganza is only a Friday night/Saturday event. To allow workers and judges of the Show, attendance to Friday and Saturday events, we need to enter and judge all the plants within a shorter time span. Tentatively I propose the following, which still needs to be confirmed with the hotel and the Extravaganza organizers in order to secure our space requirements for the show on Friday.

The ICS is a one Genus show. Only Horticultural and Artistic entries utilizing plants of the *Genus – Cryptanthus* are allowed (see the Show

Schedule for exceptions in the artistic categories). Any paid registrant of the FCBS Extravaganza may enter exhibits in the ICS.

Friday, November 4, 2011

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM Set up of rooms

10:00 AM -1:00 PM Show Registration and Classification of entries

Entry sheets, listing your plants and entry cards (standard BSI show cards) will be available at the show registration table (this is a different table and location from the Extravaganza registration table, which may not be opened until early Friday afternoon). Entry sheets will be also available prior to the show at WWW.FCBS.org, from DrLarry@comcast.net and possibly included in your Extravaganza registration materials, which you will be mailed weeks ahead of the conference by the FCBS. You can also obtain the universal entry cards from your home bromeliad society which they use for their own Bromeliad shows. Show Classification personnel will help you fill out your entry cards at the time of show registration. Please have your show entry forms completed when presenting your entries for classification. Show rules and the BSI approved Show Schedule will also be available in this Journal, at www.FCBS.org and at the time of Show registration.

12:00 PM -1:00 PM Judges' Luncheon

1:00 PM -5:00 PM Judging

BSI accredited judges and student judges will be contacted in advance to judge this BSI Standard Show. The Cryptanthus Society has its own Best Horticultural Award and Best Artistic Entry awards in lieu of the Mulford B. Foster and the Morris Henry Hobbs awards. In addition several other plaques and prizes will be awarded. Judges will receive credit for judging and for any blue or AM ribbons they win for entries into the Judges' Section. Judging is expected to begin with the conclusion of classification and placement –about 1:00 PM and will continue until all plants have been judged and awarded. Depending on the number of entries this is expected to be about 5:00 PM. This should give judges and workers time to enjoy the planned evening activities. Following judging, the head table will be assembled and be available for viewing on Saturday.

Saturday, November 5th, 2011

9:00 AM -4:00 PM Viewing of Show

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Show breakdown

Entries will be available for removal and the show room will be cleared. Donations of plants, which were exhibited in the Show, for the Saturday evening Rare Plant Auction, will be accepted at this time.

In providing this information early, I hope that registrants of the FCBS Extravaganza can make appropriate travel plans and bring entries for the International Cryptanthus Show. In future updates, I hope to have for the International attendees, information on how they can enter artistic entries without having to bring live plants into the United States.

Spring Potting

By Larry Giroux

Now that Spring is here in the Northern Hemisphere, we have to start thinking about repotting our mother plants as well as detaching and potting the numerous offsets, which have reached potting size. For a hoarder like me, I want to repot every pup, but for the "normal" hobbyist, start thinking about selling, giving away or trading those extra bare root pups to avoid the chore of potting.

As with most bromeliads, pups should not be removed, if possible, until they are 1/3 to 1/2 their mature size; any earlier and you could deprive them of the nutritional boost they receive from their mothers. Regardless of when you remove them from their mother, you can expect that with some Cryptanthus, the shock of detachment may abort further growth and the plant may start to bloom and throw its own offsets. My experience is that these new offsets from the dwarfed mother still have the potential to be normal sized plants, so don't discard them or their mothers.

Removal of the offsets is seldom a problem with the exception of certain species and hybrids made from these species, such as *Cryptanthus bahianus* and *warren-loosei*. In these cases, first generation and to some extent other attached generations of offsets, require a strong twist of the stolon close to the base. Avoid just pulling on the plant to separate it. Should you break the stolon close to the plant's base, just peeling off addition lower leaves will usually save the plant and allow you to still pot it. In some circumstances, it is very difficult to keep the offsets attached. In their natural habitat, this is a characteristic necessary for survival. In cultivation it is a pain to the grower and especially to the exhibitor who wanted to show a multiple in the Bromeliad Show.

Cryptanthus such as *Cryptanthus bahianus* (L) have offsets with the strongest adhesion to their mother, while *Cryptanthus acaulis, bivittatus and argyrophyllus* have short stolons and detach from their mothers nearly unassisted. Photos by Larry Giroux

In the following pages I will be presenting a photographic essay with some hints and tricks to help you with your repotting of Cryptanthus offsets.

The stolons of the species *Cryptanthus lacerdae* 'Menescal' seen here will grow as long as necessary for the offsets at their ends to reach a medium in which they can root or until the stolons are unable to conduct moisture and food to the offset; then the stolon will either dry up resulting in the death of the pup or the pup may fall off to take its chances on whatever surface it falls to. This plant has offsets on three different length stolons. Potting these can be done in many ways, all very easy and successful.

Many of you will recall that I've been promoting the recycling of PVC slates of window blinds for a variety of uses including plant labels for years. These vinyl slates can also be cut into thin strips, folded in half and used as non-metallic staples to pin a still attached stolon to a pot of soil until it can root. Plastic coated hairpins work as well. This allows the pup to continue to benefit from being attached to its mother while becoming established in the new pot. (see photo) Photos by Larry Giroux

With both terrestrial bromeliads such as Cryptanthus and epiphytic bromeliads, for the roots to develop, the plant must be firmly attached or stable in their media. With epiphytes this can be done with adhesives or ties of cloth, fishing line or wire; however, terrestrials require more creative methods.

I have found another use for the PVC blinds, which will help with this task—pup holders. Using a 6" or so length of PVC slate, with their ends cut into points, I punch three overlapping holes in the center. (Fig. 1) If the base of the pup is larger, you can use wider slates and make the hole larger. Using scissors, I make 3 or 4 cuts away from the hole. By making these cuts, when the plant is pushed through the hole, the edges of the holes catch the plant and holds it securely. I then bend both sides at 90 degree angles.

Fig.1

Prepare the offset by tearing off the bottom leaves of the stolon and exposing the root nodules. (Fig. 2). This would be the time to dip the stem in a rooting/ anti-fungal powder if you wish. (The potting mix for starting pups needs to be adjusted to your own specific growing conditions; i.e. if you are growing indoors and you are using a wick system and watering as needed, your media can be less absorbent, while greenhouse, shade house or outdoor cultivation may require more water retaining properties depending on the watering schedule. Using a mix such as Miracle Grow with added fertilizer or adding a long acting Nutricote type fertilizer, will be of great benefit to the newly planted offsets.) Fig. 3 shows the holder pushed into the soil. Fig. 4 shows how the pup will slide through the hole of the holder. Although you can bury the holder after you place the offset in it, I found that it is better to insert the holder into the soil first then push the pup in afterwards. Fig. 5 demonstrates the stable plant in the holder. After about 6 weeks, you can easily remove the holder by sniping it out or take

Fig.2

Fig. 3

the plant out and peeling off the holder, then replanting the rooted pup. This works really well if you want to root numerous pups all at once in a tub of fertilized perlite, using the holders to keep the plants stable in the perlite until they root. Then they can be planted in their own pots. Of course there are several old stand-by methods of stabilizing offsets in their media to help quicken root development. Rubber bands (Fig. 6) work well to hold the plant securely in the pot. Watch for damage to scurfy plants from the bands. By the time the rubber band rots the plant should be well rooted. Wooden or plastic skewers (Fig. 7) are popular as well for all sizes of offsets. I have also discovered that tying a pup to a junk of charcoal (Fig. 8) and burying the combination, actually boosts the rooting process. Photos by Larry Giroux.

Fig. 6

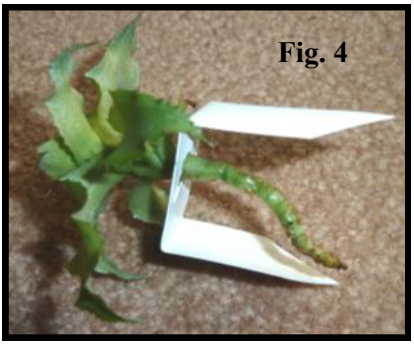


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

New Cryptanthus Cultivar Registrations

By Larry Giroux

Cryptanthus 'San Antonio Rose'

The close-up insert demonstrates the vibrant pink color in the base of the leaves, slight dark mottling and the distinct dark edges of the leaves.

Also note the very slight banding in the leaf axis.

Cryptanthus 'Avalanche'

Note the large distinct spines, which edge the leaves; while the thick, hairy scurf is more dense in leaf axis.

Cryptanthus 'San Antonio Rose'

Cryptanthus [('Tumbleweed' x 'Riptide') x 'Jambalaya']

Hybridizer: Carole Richtmyer

Number of leaves: 14+/-; Leaf type: Elliptic; Leaf serration: Dense serration; Leaf undulation: Medium; Radial symmetry: Oval ; Cross section: Curving up with center ridge: (Diameter) Extra large, 18-24in./45-60cm; Growth habit: Single-flat; Multiples: Mounding; Offset reproduction: Basal, between the leaves; Petal color: White; Fragrance: none; Blooming conformation: Flattens; SS 09/2007; Distinguishing characteristics: The overall color, depending on cultural conditions is shades of pink, which is more vibrant at the base of the leaves and paler distally. A slight dark mottling is seen throughout the leaves with distinct dark edges and dark tips. There are a few bands of silvery scurf in the axis. Mature leaves can be 1-2" wide and up to 12" long; the leaves are slightly petiolate. Description by Carole Richtmyer. Photo by Carole Richtmyer.

Cryptanthus 'Avalanche'

Cryptanthus 'Wild Cherry' *x argyrophyllus*

Hybridizer: Carole Richtmyer

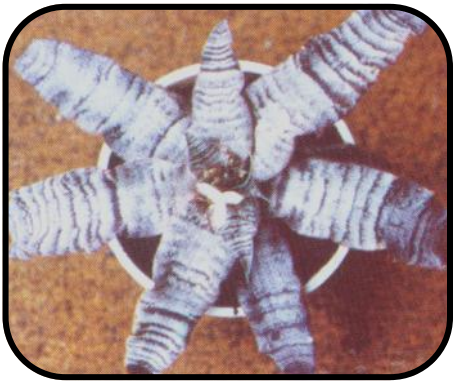
Number of leaves: 12+/-; Leaf type: Wide elliptic; Leaf serration: Deep serration; Leaf undulation: Medium-wavy; Radial symmetry: Round (open); Cross section: Curving up: (Diameter) Medium-large, 10-14in./25-35cm; Growth habit: Single-flat; Multiples: Mounding; Offset reproduction: Basal, between the leaves; Petal color: White; Fragrance: Non-fragrant; Blooming conformation: Flattens; SS 04/2006; Distinguishing characteristics: Base color is a mottled red and green, but nearly indistinguishable due to the very dense hairy white scurf covering the entire leaf surfaces; it is heaviest in the leaf axis. The leaves are about 2" wide and are very pointed, with large distinct spines. Description by Carole Richtmyer. Photo by Carole Richtmyer.

Consultation with Dr. Larry

By Lawrence J. Giroux, M.D.

Premature Blooming and Offset Production

I purchased what appeared to be a healthy ¾ grown *Cryptanthus* 'Silver Star'. After repotting it, within a few weeks it sent up a pup without blooming. The pup developed normally for about 6 weeks when it suddenly flattened and bloomed, probably no more that ¼ the normal adult size . What is causing this?



***Cryptanthus* 'Silver Star'**
(Decoster's clone)
Photo from the CSA

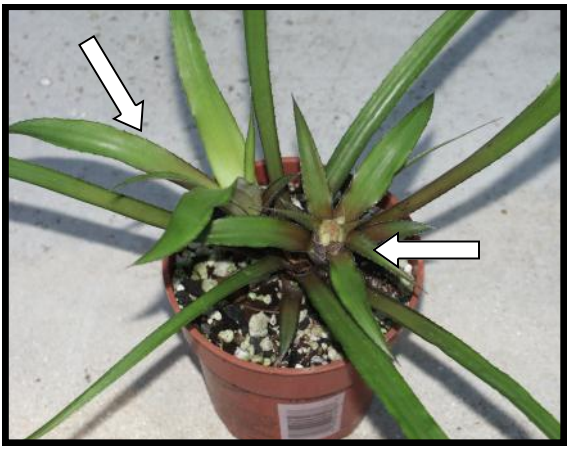
What you describe happening to your *C.* 'Silver Star' is an often seen event with Cryptanthus. The normal trigger in nature for flowering and production of pups is quite complex. For the Bromeliad to set seed or produce pups, which will survive to reproductive size, the timing must be perfect. Asexual reproduction is not always restricted to mature adult plants. And within the family of bromeliads not all adults are capable of generating offshoots. Fortunately with the genus Cryptanthus, although every plant may not be capable of flowering or setting offshoots, in general, if given close to ideal conditions most species and hybrids will flower and set offshoots routinely.

Rainfall, temperature and especially solar input, i.e. daylight length, are the major environmental cues, which set off the sexual effort. In most cases the asexual offshoots still continue to develop on their parents while the parent rosette is flowering or is ripening its fruit.

A hormone has been discovered, which is released by the young growing leaf tissue in the growing tips of non-flowering parent plants. This hormone inhibits axillary buds from producing pups. Once the growing tips stop growing, triggered by the above environmental cues, flowering and pup development may begin. With bromeliads, besides the natural inducers there are many other factors that may trigger blooming. Most growers are familiar with the trick of stabbing the center of the bromeliad to induce asexual

reproduction. There are chemicals such as Florel and gases such as smoke or the fumes from rotting fruits that produce the same effect. With Cryptanthus we often see that sudden changes such as being wrapped up and shipped, a sudden period of dryness or coldness, exposure to excessive fertilizers and even a close lightning strike can trigger premature reproduction.

So I suspect that it was one of these factors or damage to the plant, which caused your plant to prematurely produce a pup and cause the small offset to prematurely flower. Keeping all factors stable from now on, you more than likely will have normal sized offsets from this new blooming plant. If future full sized adults continue to be much smaller than a normal *C.* 'Silver Star', in spite of normal cultural conditions, it is possible you may have produced a new "Sport", uniquely different from the mother.



In this picture of *Cryptanthus bahianus*, the right arrow shows a very small offset, which has flattened and is blooming. The left arrow shows a normally developing pup. Photo by Larry Giroux

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Donna Godwin
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317-897-7648

Renewals:
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Eloise Beach
Charlie Birdsong
*Bromeliad Society of Baton Rouge
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Earth Star Exchange

Your Best Source for Cryptanthus Species and the Older and Newest Cultivars - Please support Cryptanthus Growers

Moderator- Virginia Schrenker Email: virgl7@yahoo.com ("L"7 not "one"7)

Participation in the Earth Star Exchange is open to both Commercial and Non-commercial Cryptanthus growers for the exchange or sale of Cryptanthus. Contact Virginia Schrenker or Larry Giroux for information on how to join.

Bird Rock Tropicals
6587 Black Rail Road
Carlsbad, CA 92009
Phone: 760-438-9393
FAX: 760-438-1316
Send SASE for price list
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***Cryptanthus tiradentesensis* (*Leme 5819*) in its natural habitat at the summit of Serra de São José, facing Tiradentes city (photo E. Leme).**

General aspect of "Campos Rupestres" vegetation at the summit of Serra de São José, facing Tiradentes city (photo E. Leme).