

Skeat, W. W. and Blagden, C. O.
1906. Pagan races of the Malay
Peninsula. 1966 edition. Mac-
millan, London, pp. 84-97.

Stair, J. B. 1896. Jottings on the
mythology and spirit lore of Old
Samoa. Journal of the Polynesian
Society, 5(1): 36.



Figure 1. Type of *Anthurium leuconeurum* Lemarie, Plate 314 in Vol. 9 of *L'illustration Horticole*, 1862.



Figure 2: *Anthurium clarinervium* Matuda, Croat 40646.

The Origin of *Anthurium leuconeurum*

Dr. Thomas B. Croat

Missouri Botanical Garden

P. O. Box 299

St. Louis, Missouri 63166

The name *Anthurium leuconeurum* has been in use by horticulturists since 1862 when a plant, believed to have been collected in southern Mexico by Auguste Boniface Ghiesbrecht, was described by the French botanist Charles Lemaire. The plant apparently flourished in European botanical garden hothouse collections for a period of about seven decades. A number of herbarium collections were prepared and placed in herbaria at Kew Gardens, Geneva, Paris and elsewhere; most of these collections were made before 1895. The last such herbarium collection I've seen was prepared in 1935 at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, by L. W. Carrisso and deposited at the Kew Herbarium. It is important to note that either Ghiesbrecht prepared no voucher in the field or if he did it has not survived. Certainly when *A. leuconeurum* was described in 1862 no mention was made of any herbarium collection and a painting published at that time (Plate 314 in Vol. 9 of *L'illustration Horticole*, 1862) serves as the type. In addition, no collections have been made of the plant since the time of Ghiesbrecht, despite more than a century of collecting by many botanists in southern Mexico. (I, myself, have made trips to many parts of southern Mexico in search of it.)

For some of our readers perhaps the first introduction to this name was in the first issue of *Aroideana* (Vol. 1, No. 1) when Madison, in an article entitled "The *Anthurium leuconeurum* confusion," introduced the name as synonymous with *A. clarinervium* Matuda, another distinctly different species also restricted to southern Mexico. That *A. clarinervium* and *A.*

leuconeurum are distinct can be seen from a reproduction of Lemaire's Plate (Fig. 1; see also cover of *Aroideana*, Vol. 5, No. 3) and a photograph of *A. clarinervium* in its native habitat in Chiapas (Fig. 2). The chief differences are the more open sinus and a fusion of the basal veins in *A. leuconeurum* and a closed sinus and free basal veins in *A. clarinervium*. In addition, the midrib and primary lateral veins in *A. clarinervium* are distinctly paler than the surface; this distinction, although present, is not as sharp in *A. leuconeurum*.

During my trips to European plant collections I was surprised not to find any live material of *A. leuconeurum* and concluded that it must have been obliterated during the destructive period of World War II. It was not until I visited Australia in 1981 that I came across collections of plants I was reasonably certain were *A. leuconeurum*. In Australia they were called *A. cordatum*, Fig. 3 a species which is also illustrated in *Exotica III*, p. 133. This photo represents a plant that, despite slightly more spreading posterior lobes, compares relatively well with the type plate (Fig. 1) of *A. leuconeurum*.

The really interesting thing about this discourse is that *A. leuconeurum* is almost certainly of hybrid origin which explains why it has never been recollected. What brought this to my attention was the article by Banta (1983) in a recent issue of *Aroideana*. The article described a cross between *A. clarinervium* Matuda (Fig. 2) and *A. berriozabalense* Matuda (Fig. 4) that he repeated after first seeing similar results conducted by Bob McColley of Bamboo Nursery. The hybrid, illus-

trated in Figure 3 of Banta's paper is, I believe, a close match for the type figure for *A. leuconeurum* (Fig. 1). Both of the parent plants are native to northern Chiapas State in Mexico and both have been collected, for example, north of the town of Berriozabal. That *A. clarinervium* is a species capable of hybridizing in the wild is documented by the fact that I have seen hybrids of it with *A. pedatoradiatum* Schott in the same region. John Banta (personal communication) reports that *A. berriozabalense* will also readily hybridize with *A. pedatoradiatum*; this is further confirmed by Dr. Richard Sheffer's observations (Croat & Sheffer, 1983) that members of *Anthurium* section *Cardiolonchium* may hybridize with members of section *Schizoplacium*.

The article by John Banta which has led to the conclusion that *A.*

leuconeurum is probably of hybrid origin is an example of how important it is for horticulturists to make accurate records of their crosses and to publish similar articles.

Literature Cited

- Banta, J., 1983. What's in a Name? *Aroideana* 6(1):26-27.
 Croat, T. B. & R. D. Sheffer, 1983. The sectional groupings of *Anthurium* (Araceae), *Aroideana* 6(3):85-123.
 Madison, M., 1978. The *Anthurium leuconeurum* confusion, *Aroideana* 1(1):17-19.



Fig. 3. *Anthurium "cordatum,"* cultivated in Australia (Fleetwood Nursery).



Fig. 4. *Anthurium berriozabalense* Matuda, cultivated at Foster Gardens.