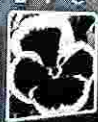


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Colourful Breeding and Genetics



Section Ornamentals

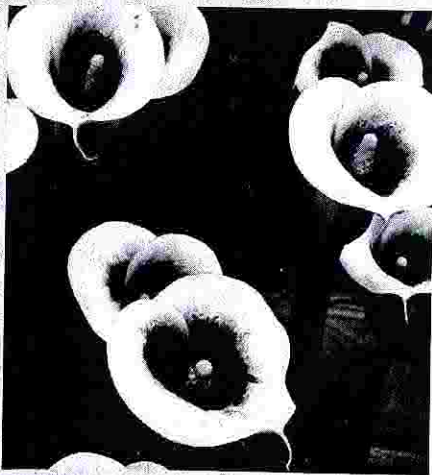
Leiden, The Netherlands, August 31 - September 4, 2009

## XXIII<sup>rd</sup> International Eucarpia symposium, Section Ornamentals "Colourful Breeding and Genetics"

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# ORNAMENTAL FOLIAGE POTENCIAL OF THIRTY FOUR ANTHURIUM ACCESSIONS

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The *Anthurium* genus comprises more than 600 species, most of them with ornamental potential. However, only *Anthurium andreanum* is remarkable in the floriculture industry, with an enormous commercial importance as cut flower. In the last few years, the commercialization of new foliage has been growing up. It is necessary to introduce new foliage crops in culture to reach market space and *Anthurium* species are an excellent option for cut foliage exploration, nevertheless, in Brazil, this is an incipient activity. The Brazil Northeast has great potential for these species cultivation, for local consumption or exportation, due to ideal climatic condition, excellent geographical localization. The aim of this work was evaluate the ornamental potential for cut foliage of 34 anthurium genotypes, from different Brazilian ecological regions, through morphological descriptors and phenological aspects. *Anthurium* collection has been carried out at Embrapa Tropical Agroindustry Corporation, located in Fortaleza-CE, Brazil. Plantlets from promising cut foliage accessions were obtained from sexual and vegetative propagation. The accessions were cultivated in plastic pots, containing commercial substrate under 80% of artificial shade. The accessions differ widely in leaf form, inflorescence size and stem length. It was also observed variation in: immature spadix colour (varying from light green to purple) and spadix diameter (ranging from 2,5 to 15,0 mm). Spathe length and width ranged from 3,0 to 25 cm and 1,5 to 5,cm respectly. The main nervure and pulvine were proeminent in all accessions. Peciolus colour was green in almost accessions, sometimes reddish, peciolus length ranging from 3,0 to 24,0 cm. Erect infructescences containing oblong to obvoid, white to purple berries were observed. About phenological aspects: accessions took 20 to 60 days to form complete developed leaves and 40 to 80 days for inflorescence emittion and complete development, and the total cycle from inflorescence emission to fructification took more than 100 days in all accessions. The peciolus length and inflorescence position in relation to the leaves are important atributtes to use indication. All accessions presented leaves with more than 40 days of shelf life. The descriptions obtained could indicate ten accessions with excellent foliage characteristics for commercial exploration and material for future breeding programs.