

'Graptosedum 'Mediterranean Mystery'

Margrit Bischofberger and Ray Stephenson give a first description.

In the late 1990s Ray killed his *Sedum* 'amecamecanum' and was particularly keen to retrieve it. He asked everyone offering it in the Sedum Society Cuttings Exchange for a piece knowing fine well he would receive *S.* 'luteoviride' from all or most of them. This was due to the fact that the ISI had distributed the latter with this name – and after all ISI labels are mostly to be trusted. Two French growers sent him a plant similar to *S.* 'amecamecanum' but with much stouter, tortuous stems and larger, bluer, more succulent leaves. He was not familiar with this at all.

When holidaying on Mediterranean isles he stumbled across this plant time and time again as a potted plant or on a garden wall or in a window box. In Crete a nursery there had great stocks of it being sold as merely "Sedum". The pale yellow flowers indicate that a parent of this hybrid is a *Graptopetalum* species.

Plant: subshrub, stems first upright, then prostrate to pendent, becoming tortuous, up to 25 cm long; terminal rosettes of 3cm diameter upright, young stems 3 mm in diameter, older stems 6-5 mm in diameter, becoming tangled as main stem branches irregularly.

Rosette: up to 4 cm in diameter, 4 cm high, comprising 30 – 50 leaves.

Leaves: up to 2 cm long, 0.5 cm wide, 2.5 mm thick, lanceolate, acuminate, greyish blue-green.

Inflorescence: lateral, peduncle up to 20 cm long with branches at the end and with numerous bracts.

Bracts: on peduncle 1.7 cm long, 0.6 cm wide, more oblong than the leaves, bracts between flowers much smaller, unequal.

Sepals: equal, 6 mm long, 2 mm wide, united at base for 1.5 mm, adpressed at petals, green.

Flowers: 5 partite, pedicel 2-3 mm.

Petals: 0.8 cm long, 0.3 cm wide, star shaped, light yellow inside, greenish yellow outside, intrapetalous stamens somewhat reflexed through petals, no sign of red dappling.

Carpels: greenish.

