



## 2018 – 2023 Living Collection Plan for: *Platycerium*

### Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

Version 1.0, December 2018

#### Mission:

Preserving Vizcaya's cultural and environmental resources to engage people in connecting with the past, understanding the present, and shaping the future.

#### Vision:

Vizcaya is an enduring, inclusive, and innovative place that inspires people to embrace the cultural vitality and environmental sustainability of the world around us.

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#### Purpose of *Platycerium* Living Collection Plan:

The purpose of Vizcaya's Plan is to guide the acquisition of living specimens to create a comprehensive and taxonomically correct representative collection while increasing the intrinsic value and display capacity of Vizcaya's horticultural collections. There is no comprehensive collection of the genus held in botanic gardens that has been authenticated taxonomically. It is very difficult to obtain wild collected progeny therefore the focus of the collection will be taxonomic.

#### Introduction & History of *Platycerium* Collection:

*Platycerium* have been present at Vizcaya since the days of its patron James Deering, who was eager to have, and acquired, what was supposedly the first Staghorn Fern in Miami. An archival photo circa 1934 shows two healthy Staghorn Ferns displayed in pots, flanking the main staircase of the Main House. When Vizcaya opened as a public museum, local gardeners would occasionally donate large *Platycerium bifurcatum*, to be displayed in the gardens. Over time, Vizcaya amassed a collection of 8 substantially sized *P. bifurcatum* that are well over 50 years old each.

#### Objective of *Platycerium* Collection:

Our objective is to acquire a collection of *Platycerium* that is as complete as possible given the limitations of our climate, and is as



taxonomically correct as possible. We plan to hold at least some diversity of genetic material by acquiring from a number of reliable nurseries and as applicable, public gardens. While we will aspire to find sources of wild collected material, we realize that very little of the germplasm present today is of direct wild origin. Because of rampant hybridization, we will ensure our representative collection is as taxonomically correct as possible.

### **Goals of (*Genus*) Collection:**

Of the 18 species in the genus, we will obtain 16 the species suitable for growing in Miami's climate. We aim to hold a minimum of two specimens garnered from diverse sources per species. Most species will become quite large, so one specimen per species will be displayed as a mounted or hung specimen in the Main Gardens and Vizcaya Village. While not every *Platycterium* in the collection will be used for display purposes, those large plants in closest proximity to the Main House on the east property and the Superintendent's House in the Vizcaya Village will illustrate patron James Deering's historical interest in Staghorn Ferns and illustrate the horticultural experimentation that occurred during our period of interpretation; 1918-1926. At least one additional accession per species will be grown in the nursery as a backup. As those specimens grow, to prevent them from outgrowing their allotted space we will divide them and send the divisions to other public gardens to bolster their displays and serve as an important backup collection.

### **Primary and Secondary Priorities for Collection:**

#### **Primary Collection Priorities:**

Taxa not represented in the collection by at least one specimen will be our top priority for collection.

#### **Secondary Collection Priorities:**

Our goal is to obtain a second or third specimen of taxa already represented and have at least two representative specimens of each species known. *Platycterium bifurcatum* is not a collection priority unless a significant morphological distinction is present. Until we have collected and accessioned all species of verified identity we can cultivate, obtaining additional *Platycterium* hybrids of proprietary origin are not a collection priority.



**Taxa represented by one specimen:**

*P. alcicorne*  
*P. stemaria*  
*P. superbum*  
*P. veitchii*  
*P. veitchii v. Lemoinei*  
*P. 'Celebes Walters'*  
*P. 'Farlo'*  
*P. 'Mt. Kitshakood'*

**Taxa represented by more than one specimen:**

*P. bifurcatum*  
*P. coronarium*  
*P. hillii*  
  
*P. hillii 'Panama'*  
*P. holtumii*

**Taxa not represented but will be obtained:**

*P. andinum*  
*P. elephantotis*  
*P. ellisii*  
*P. grande*  
*P. platylobum*  
*P. ridleyi*  
*P. stemaria var. laurentii*  
*P. stemaria v. stemaria*  
*P. veitchii*  
*P. wandae*  
*P. willinickii*

**Taxa not included:**

*P. madagascariense*  
*P. quadrichotomum*



## **Schedule:**

### 2018-2019:

- Seek approval for collection and guidelines

### 2019:

- Collection specimen acquisition, at least 3 species acquired.
- Existing specimens maintained, deaths replaced
- Satellite collection holders identified
- Interpretation of selected specimens on display in Main Gardens
- Largest nursery specimens put on display
- Establish photographic growth records

### 2020:

- Overall collection evaluation, evaluation of goals and plan.
- Collection specimen acquisition, at least 3 species acquired
- Existing specimens maintained, deaths replaced
- Interpretation of selected specimens on display in Vizcaya Village
- Largest nursery specimens put on display
- Maintain and continue growth records

### 2021:

- Divisions of largest nursery specimens sent to satellite collection holders
- Collection specimen acquisition, remaining species acquired
- Existing specimens maintained, deaths replaced

### 2022:

- Divisions of largest nursery specimens sent to satellite collection holders
- Collection specimen acquisition, at least 3 species acquired
- Existing specimens maintained, deaths replaced
- Maintain and continue growth records

### 2023:

- Overall collection evaluation
- Evaluation and update of collections plan
- Divisions of largest nursery specimens sent to satellite collection holders
- Collection specimen acquisition, at least 3 species acquired
- Existing specimens maintained, deaths replaced