**H. nigrescens** F. Maekawa 1940

*H. ‘Nigrescens’ and H. ‘Elatior’ (see Page 19)*

*J. Japanese Botany;* 13, No. 12:901 f. 8 1937.
*J. of the Faculty of Science, Sect. 3 Botany, Vol. 5:352-355, ic. 13, 14, 15, 16; 1940*

クロギボウシ = 黒擬宝珠 = Kuro Gibōshi (fide Y. Iinuma 1910)

**History and Nomenclature:** In Japan, this species has been known and cultivated long before it was established as a valid taxon by Maekawa (1937/1940). It was first known under its Japanese vernacular (horticultural) name Kuro Gibōshi = クロギボウシ = 黒擬宝珠. The Japanese name is based on the Kanji 黒, translating to “black (or dark)” so the Japanese name Kuro Gibōshi translates to “black hosta.” As Maekawa (1940) pointed out, this name dates back to the floristic work of Yokusai Iinuma (1910). Not actually black, but very dark-green and covered with a light gray, pruinose coating initially, the leaves lose the gray covering and become a shiny, very dark green by anthesis. The cataphylls are a dull blackish purple. The species epithet nigrescens also means “blackish (or very dark colored)” and this coloration gave rise to the both the Japanese and scientific names. Fumio Maekawa considered *H. nigrescens* a valid taxon, but I have not been able to access populations in the wild habitat other than *H. ‘Tenryu’*, which is morphometrically the same as *H. nigrescens*. This is a new cultivar name assigned to the species and is used in conjunction and synonymous with the species name. The only reference to a spontaneous habitat is on specimen No. 184 in Hortus Kikuchi (in scheda Kyoto). It references collector Kozō Kawakami’s collection in Rikuchū Province (Rikuchū-no kuni; 陸中国), which is a location further north in Iwate and Aomori prefectures, all in the northern area of Honshū, called Tōhoku region (Tōhoku-chihō; 東北地方).
▲ H. nigrescens (cultivated) ▲
Leaf mound showing springtime pruinose coating
Hosta Hill R.G. • HH 08208504 • 1986.05.16

▼ H. nigrescens (cult.) ▼ Comparison ▼ H. ‘Tenryu’ ▼
All other referenced specimens were listed by Maekawa under “Planta culta.” = cultivated in gardens. Several of these have their origin in the province of Mutsu (Mutsu-no kuni; 陸奥国), also in northern Tōhoku. Definitely originating with cultivated collections were the plants obtained by Maekawa further south in Shizuoka Prefecture. Maekawa obtained these plants in August 1935 in the province of Tōtōmi (Tōtōmi-no kuni; 遠江国; today part of Shizuoka Prefecture; 静岡県) on Mount Akiba (秋葉山) in Chūbu Region (中部地方). The mount is the site for several temples and shrines, where these specimens have been cultivated for many years. Their original source habitat is unknown. It is verified by other sources (Maekawa 1940, 1969, 1972; Fujita 1976; and K. Watanabe 1985) that many of

**Last Phase of Scape Elongation ►►►**

The Measuring Rod shows 30 cm (12 inch) segments. The bottom segment is partially hidden by the leaf mound. This specimen shows a scape height of 5.6 feet (168 cm) and reached a terminal height of 6.2 feet (189 cm).

**H. nigrescens** (cult. vouch.)

►

Hosta Hill R.G. • HH vouch. 05138205 • 1985.08.04
The specimens found from central Honshū to the prefectures of northern Tōhoku are the same plants. Most specimens extant have originated from cultivated sources, and this taxon could be a cultivar of long standing, (with the name written as the cultivar H. ‘Nigrescens’ See page 19 for dis-cussion). K. Watanabe (1985) compared specimens originating in Shizuoka Prefecture with living, cultivated plants obtained in southern Hokkaidō. He reported that the plants found in Shizuoka are virtually identical to those from Hokkaidō and that Mr. Yoshie isolated and named the southern group, calling it Tenryū Gibōshi. The Japanese Kanji for this name is 天竜, meaning “heavenly dragon.” The name is taken from the Tenryū River (天竜川) in the general area of its collection from cultivated stock. It is registered by the AHS under the name H. ‘Tenryu’ (2002 Yoshi/Ruh). H. nigrescens (also as H. ‘Nigrescens’ page 19) and H. ‘Tenryu’ are morphologically the same. There are slight differences in the flower of the color, H. ‘Tenryu’ has white flowers shading to a very light mauve with barely darker stripes, while H. nigrescens has almost white flowers. The anthers of both are bi-color purple. In this Species Update they are con-sidered the same. A more difficult problem to resolve is Maekawa’s decision to establish this hosta as a taxon. Maekawa retained species rank in 1969 and 1971. J. Ohwi (1965) accepted Maekawa’s place-ment but added the annotation “commonly cultivated,” pointing to the cultivated origin of this hosta. N. Fujita’s 1976 placement echoed the original name given to this taxon by Makino (in Iinuma 1902), namely H. sieboldiana var. nigrescens. Fujita considered this taxon (together with H. fluctuans) to be the same as his H. sieboldiana var. glabra. This place-ment does not reflect the considerable macro-morphological differences seen and is based on the single character of glabrous veins on the leaf un-derside. This synonymy is also not supported by DNA content (2C) in pg (10⁻¹² gram) as determined by B. Zonneveld and F. Van Iren (2001). DNA content for H. sieboldiana measured 23.6 ± 0.36, while H. nigrescens tested to 22.6 ± 1.14. This study also confirmed low pollen viability (22.6%) as pointed out by Maekawa (1940: “sometimes sterile”) This points to differentiation and Fujita’s synonymy is not accepted. Recent RAPD/DNA analysis (Y. Yu, 2002; Sauve, R.J., S. Zhou, Y. Yu, and W.G. Schmid. 2005) also differentiated H. nigrescens from H. sieboldiana and thus RAPD/DNA analysis does not support Fujita’s placement. Schmid (2007) considers H. nigrescens to be
collected from cultivated populations growing in the central and northern part of Honshū. It may be of interspecific, hybrid origin and the fact that it is barely fertile and vegetatively propagated in cultivation allowed it to retain its macro-morphological character over a long period of cultivation. This also accounts for its low pollen stainability, as inferred in a previous study (Zonneveld 1998). Specimens conforming to Maekawa’s description can be recognized by scape length which was given by Maekawa (1969) as 150 cm (60 in.) but they will reach and often exceed a height of ±180 cm (72 in.) as shown in the photo here. The scape retains its glaucous gray coating until fall and the seed pods are also a glaucous gray. There is also a distinct difference in a number of traits, including leaf shape and anther coloration (yellow for *H. sieboldiana* and bicolor purple for *H. nigrescens*) and the number of principal leaf veins (max. 15-18 vs. max. 12-13 (14) for *H. nigrescens*). In this case, *H. sieboldiana* and *H. nigrescens* are easily differentiated based on gross morphology.

**H. nigrescens** (cultivated)
Glaucous leaf coating as seen in spring ▪ label bottom right is 2×3 in. (5×7.6 cm)
Hosta Hill R.G. ▪ HH vouch. 05138205 © W.G. Schmid 1987.05.16

**Habitat and Biology:** The original habitat of this species is referred to only once in Maekawa (1940): “Spontanea in montibus Honshū borealis, sed in hortis Japonensibus late colitur.” (Transl.: Spontaneous in the northern mountains of Honshū, but widely cultivated in Japanese gardens). Maekawa did not designate a type so no data are available as to the exact place of this collection. Specimen No.184
**H. nigrescens** (det. W.G. Schmid)
Initially det. as *H. montana* (オオバギボウシ) and *H. longipes* (イワギボウシ)

Herbarium of Kyoto University ♦ 京都大学総合博物館

Note the very long scapes (folded), pruinosity, and leaf shape morphologically different from the type for *H. sieboldiana* var. *gabra* (M. Ibuka s.n. 1975 in KYO). Examination shows the specimen is applicable to *H. nigrescens* (det. W.G. Schmid)

Previous det. = *H. sieboldiana* var. *gabra* by G. Murata 1987
in Hortus Kikuchi (in scheda Kyoto) references collector K. Kawakami’s collection in the old province of Rikuchū (Rikuchū-no kuni; 陸中国), which is located in Aomori prefecture in northern Tōhoku region (Tōhoku-chihō; 東北地方). Field investigations have not confirmed this. The area includes the prefectures of northern Yamagata and Fukushima, Akita, Miyagi, Iwate, and Aomori, all in the northern region of Honshū. Fujita (1976) pointed to the existence of what he classified as *H. sieboldiana* var. *glabra*, which he considered synonymous to *H. nigrescens* populations in central Honshū, including areas in the northern Nagano, Shimane, Toyama, and Niigata prefectures. The specimens cited by Maekawa (1940) are all of cultivated origin from this general area. These locations are much further south than the locus of Specimen No. 184 in KYO. I have examined another herbarium
specimen and included it in my Species Update (see page 7). Upon close examination, this specimen (K 10-20 KYO) has the characteristics of *H. nigrescens*, although it was first identified as *H. montana* (オオバギボウシ) [right on scheda] and *H. longipes* (イワギボウシ) [left on scheda]. The label is shown above and has a March 1987 determinavit by G. Murata for *H. sieboldiana* var. *glabra*. Collected in August 1903 by N. Kinashi in Shinano-no kuni (信濃国), now Nagano Prefecture (長野県), in the central region of Honshū. Without further field investigations, it is impossible to determine if this taxon has existing, natural populations and, if these populations have morphological traits that are concurrent with those of the plants widely cultivated under the name *H. nigrescens*.

**Plant Morphology:** *H. nigrescens* is mostly known as a cultivated species. Its wild status requires further field studies. The cultivated plants are very uniform and have been vegetatively propagated. Some may be hybridized. Most of the cultivated specimens conform closely to Maekawa's description and are considered *H. nigrescens* based on gross morphology. Plant size 60–70 cm dia., 65 cm high (24–28 by 26 in.). Sprout cataphylls pruinose, blackish grey. Petiole 30–50 by 1.2 cm wide (12–20 by 0.50 in. wide), slightly arching but erect, forming a tall plant, gray pruinose glaucous, green background. Leaf 25–30 by 17.5–22.5 cm (10–12 by 7–9 in.), leaf attitude at petiole angled at joint then ±arcuate spreading, ovate-cordate, transition usually tight and contracted, acuminate tip, rugose in part, ±keeled, no waves in margin; entire plant very pruinose initially, farinose, gray green initially, leaf underside and petioles whitish, leaf upper surface pruinose grayish green, slowly changing to shiny deep green (page 6). Venation 11–14, sunken above, very projected, strigose below. Scape far exceeding height of plant, to 140 cm (56 in.), measured to 180 (200) cm (72 (79) in.) on mature plants, with ±3 (5) sterile bracts, very straight, erect, upper part rarely, but occasionally bending, solid, terete, permanently pruinose, lasting until dehiscence; bracts flat and broad, thick and fleshy, green or whitish green, developing and opening in a stellar form as seen from above.

*H. nigrescens* (cultivated)
Cataphylls solid purple to striped purple
Hosta Hill R.G. V.: HH 12388604
©W.G. Schmid Photo: 1987.04.11
Raceme 30 cm (12 in.), 15–25 flowers, widely spaced. Flowers 5 cm long, 3 cm broad (2 by 1.25 in.), Type A (Schmid 1991), mostly white to white, suffused with very light purple, and barely darker stripes; perianth expanding, funnel-shaped, in the central part dilated, bell-shaped, lobes spreading straightly to ±angled to the axis of perianth, stamens not very superior, equal or slightly shorter than perianth. Average anthesis in late July/August. Anthers purple anterior and posterior, lighter posterior, approaching bi-color, looks light purple. June. Scarcely fertile; but will hybridize in cultivation.

**Karyotype-Chromosomes:** Sporophytic Count = 60; 12 large, 48 small; (2n).

**Genome Size:** DNA content (2C) in pg (one \((10^{-12})\) gram) for *H. nigrescens* = 22.6 ± 1.14 (Ratio DI/DAPI n. d. - Zonneveld 2001). These results were obtained from a cultivated specimen marked *H. ‘Nigrescens’* (coll. No. 243) of unknown origin.

**Pollen:** Pollen type was not determined by M.G. Chung and S.B. Jones, 1989.

**DNA Banding:** (Y. Yu, 2002; Sauve, R.J., S. Zhou, Y. Yu, and W.G. Schmid. 2005). In additions to other taxa, the banding patterns of *H. sieboldiana*, *H. montana* and *H. nigrescens* were compared in the 2002/2005 study. The 3 species shown in the banding pattern:

\[
\begin{align*}
10/11 & = H. montana; \\
12 & = H. sieboldiana; \\
15 & = H. nigrescens
\end{align*}
\]

were compared using primer OPB-02 (5’-TGATCCCTGG-3’). The single primer generated bands as shown in Fig. D to the left). Two distinct marker bands were produced for *H. nigrescens* (1605bp and 1024bp) and one polymorphic band was common for the three taxa (*H. montana* [10]; *H. montana* f. *macrophylla* [11]; *H. nigrescens* [15](894bp). These bands allow for the differentiation of the taxa. *H. sieboldiana* is compared by a different primer (OPB-12).
Taxonomic Type and Synonymy:

*H. nigrescens* (Makino) F. Maekawa.


Hab.: Rikuchū (Rikuchū-no kuni; 陸中国), Hirosaki City (Hirosaki-shi; 弘前市) in Aomori Prefecture (Aomori-ken; 青森県), northern Tōhoku region (Tōhoku-chihō; 東北地方). Hab. in mountain valleys in Tōhoku and Chūbu region (Chūbu-chihō; 中部地方), the central region of Honshū (K10/20 in KYO; coll. in Aug 1903 by N. Kinashi); as *H. ‘Tenryu’* in Aichi Prefecture (Aichi-ken; 愛知県) and Shizuoka Prefecture (Shizuoka-ken; 静岡県) in Tenryu River Area (Tenryugawa; 天竜川).

Botanical Synonyms:


Japanese Synonyms:

クロギボウシ = 黒擬宝珠 = Kuro Gibōshi (Maekawa 1940 fide Y. Inuma 1910).

ナメルギボウシ = 滑擬宝珠 = なめる擬宝珠 = Nameru Gibōshi (in synonymy by Fujita in sensu lato – not accepted as a synonym for *H. nigrescens*; the Japanese name for *H. sieboldiana* var. *glabra* refers to its smooth, glabrous nerves on the leaf underside vs. those of *H. sieboldiana*, which has small protuberances; *H. nigrescens* has the same protuberances on the underleaf veins so cannot be *H. sieboldiana* var. *glabra*). Also see *H. sieboldiana* = *H. ‘Sieboldiana’* in this *Species Update*.

テンリュギボウシ = 天竜擬宝珠 = Tenryu Gibōshi (in syn.) = *H. ‘Tenryu’*.

ちょだいぎんいろギボウシ = 著大銀色 = Chodai Giniro Gibōshi = *H. ‘Tenryu’*.
**Horticultural Synonyms:**

Darkgreen Plantain Lily

*H. 'Krossa No. A–3'/Summers No. 69 1967 = H. 'Krossa Regal'.


*H. nigrescens* “Cally Strain” Illegitimate name per ICNCP rules

*H. ‘Nigrescens’* (when considered a cultivar)

*H. ‘Tenryu’* (2002 Yoshi/Ruh) (considered a synonym)

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This taxon has been known in cultivation for a very long time and today it is used primarily as cultivated plants. It has been and still is extensively used in temple gardens. Its leaves are used in the art of Japanese flower displays (Ikebana; 生花 or kadō; 華道).

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**H. nigrescens**

Close-up of perianth showing dark anther posterior

© blog.yahoo.jp/parismina

brachy

**H. nigrescens** (cultivated)

Showing whitish grey underside

©D. Teager Photo – H/L
H. nigrescens in Horticulture:

H. nigrescens was obtained in Japan by the late Gus Krossa, who imported many hostas from Japan and Europe obtaining them from academic sources and collectors the world over. His connections to Osaka University brought a number of wild taxa into the United States. He numbered H. nigrescens as B-5 and it appeared in Summers (1972) as Summers No. 111; 1967. The loc. cit. of collection of these imports is not known (other than they originated in Japan) because many of the Krossa imports lacked identification. It is quite possible that it may have been a specimen of what is now called H. ‘Tenryu’, because Krossa obtained many of his imports in central Honshū, while Maekawa’s specimens came from northern Honshū. Today, H. nigrescens is readily available in the trade and is a popular species hosta. Some sources sell it as a cultivar with the name H. ‘Nigrescens’. A form of the species from the Tenryu Area is known in Japan as テンリュギボウシ = 天竜擬宝珠 = Tenryu Gibōshi and was registered as H. ‘Tenryu’ in 1985 (Japan/Yoshie) by P. Ruh. This form is available in Japan from the Watanabe Nursery in Gotemba City (御殿場市), Shizuoka Prefecture. It is the origin of most western specimens. The inflorescence of this form have slightly darker color. In Japan, H. ‘Tenryu’ is sold as Ūrui. “Ūrui” (うるい = ウルイ) is used for wild plants (including hostas), which can be utilized as food crop. H. ‘Tenryu’ also has the has the invalid name H. sieboldiana ‘Tenryu’ attached to
it (Source: hinoharu • 食用ギボウシ). Both *H. nigrescens* and *H. ‘Tenryu’* have a tendency to sport to yellow or variegated forms. A yellow form is listed in Europe as *H. nigrescens* ‘Aurea’, a cultivar name invalid according to the rules of the ICNCP and should it be called *H. ‘Ogon Kuro’* based on the Japanese vernacular name 黄金クロギボウシ = Ogon Kuro Gibōshi. A variegated form *H. ‘Tenryu’* with irregular, streaky yellowish white leaf margins called *H. ‘Tenryu Nishiki’* (天竜錦

and has been seen at the Hamanako Flower Show in Japan. This cultivar does not have the typical leaf shape of *H. nigrescens*—*H. ‘Tenryu’* due to different marginal growth. Other, similar sports of this species have been found. One of the most popular cultivars with *H. nigrescens*—*H. ‘Tenryu’* parentage is *H. ‘Krossa Regal’* (Katakana = クロッサリーガル), registered in 1980 by Alma Krossa for her late husband. The plant originated in Japan with Osaka University (大阪大学) (a source of a number of Japanese plants for G. Krossa). Its Japanese vernacular name is based on its size and silvery color, being 著大銀色 = ちょだいぎんいろ ギボウシ = Chodai Giniro Gibōshi. Translated this name means “exceptionally large, silver colored hosta.” Its
western equivalent per the ICNCP would be H. ‘Chodai Giniro’ but it is registered as H. ‘Krossa Regal’ and known under this name the world over. This hosta can be seen in most hosta collections. It has the same vase-shaped clump as H. nigres-cens with silvery leaves and tall scapes as the parent species. This cultivar is the origin of many fine variegated sports, some of which are equally popular, as, for example its margined sport H. ‘Regal Splendor’ (Walters Gardens 1987). The flowers of this group are more lavender than the almost white flowers of H. nigres-cens/H.
‘Tenryu’. Numerous sports have been found and for details of named and/or registered sports consult AHS Registration D/B (hostaregistrar.org), The Hosta Library, or MyHostas.com. Note that some cultivars considered sports may in fact be hybrids.

**Horticultural Progeny:**

![Image of Hosta Plant](image)

*H. ‘Regal Splendor’ (Walters Gardens 1987)*

Mature Clump • Photo: © C.H. Falstad

Note: Numerous sports have been found and for details of named and/or registered sports consult AHS Registration D/B (hostaregistrar.org), The Hosta Library, or MyHostas.com. Note that some cultivars considered sports may in fact be hybrids.

*H. nigrescens* is considered pod sterile but, intermittently, pods with fertile seeds are formed. Its pollen is fertile and has been used for hybridizing as a pollen parent. Please note that only *direct species progeny* is shown, i.e., *H. nigrescens* is directly involved, as a pod or pollen parent. Some parentage is indicated by “(?)” when no records are available for hybrid parentage. The following code abbreviations are used:
List Designations:
♀ = the species as a pod parent directly = List 2
♂ = the species as a pollen parent directly = List 1

List 1: Cultivars with *H. nigrescens* ♀ as a pod parent (few hybrids reported):
*H. ‘Flower Power’ = ♀ *H. nigrescens* × ♂ *H. plantaginea* by K. Vaughn 1987
*H. ‘Green Wedge’ = ♀ *H. nigrescens* × ♂ Hybrid(?) by P. Aden 1976

List 2: Cultivars with *H. nigrescens* ♂ as a pollen parent:
Although no parentage is given this is a hybrid with H. nigrescens as a pollen parent
© 2005 H. Philips MyHostas.net
**H. ‘Nigrescens’ (As a Cultivar).**

As mentioned on page 2, *H. nigrescens* is by some authors considered a cultivar. This is based on the following facts:

1) Only a single specimen was collected in the wild (cited in F. Maekawa 1940) monograph. This specimen (No. 184 in Hortus Kikuchi; in KYO) was collected in the old province of Rikuchū located in the northwestern area of Honshū. It is noteworthy that most of the specimens cultivated today come from cultivated stock in central Honshū.
2) Maekawa (1940) did not designate No. 184 as the holotype nor did he provide a lectotype/neotype in his subsequent publications.

3) According to Maekawa (1940), all other specimens were not wild collected but were obtained from cultivated sources. He designated these originating as “planta culta,” (= cultivated plants).

4) Maekawa (1940) characterized the fertility of this taxon as “interdum sterilia,” (= sometimes sterile). Lowered fertility was confirmed by Zonneveld, B.J.M. and F. Van Iren (2001), using pollen stainability. As a general rule, pollen fertility is high in species and low in interspecific hybrids. The value of stainable pollen was determined to be 25% [test specimen No. 243, designated H. “Nigrescens” (note +double quotes”) of unknown origin]. Zonneveld (1998) pointed out that cultivated species vegetatively propagated over a long periods of time (“more than a century”) experience a decline of pollen viability from generation to generation. Specimens of H. nigrescens found in central Honshū and called H. ‘Tenryu’ are morphologically identical to the species and represent the main source for most of the cultivated specimens (from the Watanabe Nursery). These originated with selected specimens of a species, which subsequently was widely cultivated and propagated in temples by seed for centuries. This may account for the low fertility. The specimens originating in northern Honshū will produce fertile pods to a higher degree and are here considered closer to the original populations.

Analysis: R. Solberg (2003) published a detailed analysis, using macromorphological traits, pollen viability, and total nuclear DNA. Based on these data, Solberg concluded that “the plant we have labeled as H. nigrescens in our gardens is probably a hybrid since it does not fit Maekawa’s description for the species, has a very low pollen viability percentage and an atypical total nuclear DNA value.” I disagree with Solberg’s statement that Maekawa’s Latin diagnosis ‘does not fit.” Maekawa’s diagnosis accurately describes a taxon we cultivate as H. nigrescens. For this reason and considering additional data, including RAPD analysis, I find that H. nigrescens and H. ‘Tenryu’ are representative of a taxon originally found in the wild and still present in northern Honshū. This taxon has been observed in the northern provinces of Honshu by several authors (Maekawa 1940; Schmid 1991, Zilis 2000) The plants now cultivated are derived from (removed) stock that has been grown and propagated by way of seed for centuries in central (!) Honshū. The cultivated plants fit Maekawa’s photographs and diagnosis accurately so this taxon is here considered to be a selected form of the species H. nigrescens.
History and Nomenclature: In Japan called Saitaka Kuro Giboshi, this taxon/culton was found by Mataroku Yamanaka in cultivation. Maekawa (1940) published this taxon name based on a cultivated plant without number in Kikuchi’s garden in Kyoto. The description reads: “A typo ex
omnibus partibus robustioribus, scapo alteriori (170 cm longio), floribus majoribus (ca 65 mm longis) recedit.” In this description, no reference is made to pruinosity, and it basically states the taxon differs from the type by being larger in all parts, and by having longer scapes (170 cm long) and larger flowers (ca. 65 mm long). The leaf mound is not pruinose, but has much larger shiny, medium green leaves. The flowers and bracts are very close to those of H. montana and this cultivar has much higher pod and pollen fertility. This indicates that H. montana was the pod (♀) parent. Maekawa (1940) elected a type specimen that had cultivated origin (s.n.) and wild populations have not been located in field studies. Maekawa 1940) assigned the Japanese name 最多佳黒擬宝珠 (transliterated = Saitaka Kuro Gibōshi). The word Saitaka comes from the Japanese Kanji 最多佳, equating to “the most excellent” or liberally translated to “most outstanding.” Maekawa (1969) eliminated this taxon considering it a cultigen for which no representative of local wild populations have been found. Detailed analysis of morphological traits indicates this to be an interspecific hybrid between H. montana and H. nigrescens combining the long-scape trait of H. nigrescens with the flower and leaf characteristics and blooming time of H. montana. Schmid (1991) reduced this taxon to cultivar rank. At Hosta Hill R.G. (located at 1188 feet (361m) AMSL; 84-12'-30" W and 33-51' N), this cultivar blooms in late June to early July, a few days later than H. montana. Specimens of H. nigrescens do not bloom until early to mid-August.

Below:
Dark primary cataphyll
All photos © 1988 W.G. Schmid
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