

A new mutation in *Agapornis Roseicollis*

"jade"

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A dedicated breeder in Italy, Miriam Bisiacchi, told me that many years ago, when she started breeding the *blue* roseicollis, she found a surprise in a nest. The parents were a Violet Cinnamon D blue hen and a Violet D blue male.

In their first nest she found two chicks with an unusual color.

She first thought that they were cinnamon, but that was not possible, because their flight feathers were not brownish but gray: just like you see in the marbled birds.

She exhibited one of the double Dark factored youngsters named "Cloud" on a Belgian Show in the category "edged dilute turquoise" and won Best in Group.

Her color was no doubt attractive, even if the markings were too light to be an edged dilute (marbled), and mostly present on the wings at the base of the flight feathers. The Judge did not notice that the color of her abdomen was somehow too light.

Miriam tested the mutation to marbled and pallid, but the result was double split chicks.

So she called the mutation "marbled X", where the X was indicating something mysterious.

Two years ago she sent feathers to Mutavi. The study evidenced that the eumelanine present in the barbs undergoes a modification in the phase when the enzyme tyrosinase transforms the tyrosine into melanine. Therefore it probably is a mutation having the characteristics of albinism. The fact that these birds hatch with dark red eyes supports the theory.

The mutation was officially named "faded", but DNA tests later made sure that it was something new.

Last year she bred the mutation into green series. The new name chosen for it now is "Jade".

The difference between the sexes is evident: the female has a bright yellow or white lower part of the body (yellow in green series birds and white in *blue* series birds).

In my opinion a nice mutation.

Thank you Ms Bisiacchi to let me publish this article and photos. Copyright photos stay with M. Bisiacchi



Abdomen males



Abdomen females



Jade

Cinnamon

Jade in the green
series

