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#### *About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

The Beeches - Apr! 14. 1864

My dear Sir

I can derive no information respecting your pretty small narcissus, from Curtis' Botanical Magazine, but I have looked thro' Herbert's *Amaryllidaceae*, - and I think that your plant is *Queltia juncifolia* of Herbert, probably variety 1 or 3 - from Siberia the country about Moulpeliér - *Queltia juncifolia* of Herbert is *Phidogyne juncea* of Haworth. page 13 - Your plant does not belong to the *Worpelicob* tribe (*Corbularia*) the *Cyrena* being looked out

for that division - Mr Herbert  
is a very accurate Naturalist,  
& he speaks of Hæworth's encouragement  
of the Narcissi as very faulty.  
His classical attainments are  
not great if we judge of them from  
his Character of "Ajax" -

When Paris quadrifida  
is in flower here, I shall ask you  
over to collect it -

Yours sincerely,  
C. L. Fox

Brussels. 31 Oct. 1864

Dear Sir,

Herein under an elucidation:

"There is great difficulty in satisfactorily as-  
"certaining to what plants many of the descrip-  
"tions given by Classical authors should be  
"referred; and none seems to have led to more  
"mistakes than the *Narcissus*, a name which,  
"with the addition of *Purpureus*, has been usually  
"applied to the common white *Narcissus*, with  
"a crimson or purple cup in the center, & which  
"always flowers about May. But a little attention  
"to the epithets applied by the Classical writers,  
"will at once demonstrate that this cannot be  
"the flower to which they referred. Virgil calls  
"it the purple *Narcissus* (*Purpureo Narcisso*  
"Ecl. v l. 38) and the *Narcissus* flowering  
"late\* (*Senae comantem Narcissum* Georg. lib. iv l. 45)  
"amongst their autumnal plants; and Pliny  
"also describes it as having "a purple flower".  
"(*Purpureo flore*). Moreover, almost all the

\* Whereas our English Poets declare of the flower that it "Comes  
"before the Swallows" &c. & does "blossom in the woods of March with  
"early".



"flowers which are said to have sprung from  
"the blood of defunct heroes, are of a purple or  
"red colour; such are the Flower Adonis, the  
"Hyacinth of the poets, the red Rose, the Crocus  
"officinale, or Meadow Saffron, and many  
"others. Shakspeare also adopts the same  
"idea when he describes the Heath's rose as  
"a turned "purple with-love's wound".

The Poet's Pleasance, or garden of all  
Sorts of Pleasant Flowers. By Peter Leeson  
1847.

Turning to Pliny (Philemon Holland's trans-  
lation) I find the following:

"Now for Daffodils, there be two kinds of  
"them admitted by the Physicians for to be  
"used in medicin; the one with a purple flower,  
"the other of a grasse greene (!) The roots as  
"well of the one, as of the other Daffodill, have a  
"pleasant taste, as if were of honied wine. For  
"its rare like quality of shipping and be-  
"numming the senses, it took the name in  
"Greek Narcissus, of Narsa; which be to know  
"hummedness or dulness of senses, and not of  
"the young boy Narcissus, as the Poets doe  
"faine and fable." Vol II. p. 103.

The question was queried and quibbled  
over in the Phytologist, but no explanation  
given. —

I trust you received the Catalogues,  
(three in number) safely. I can always  
get you such when you wish for them.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

J. S. Westwood

The Rev. W. S. Maccubbin.

P.S. That John Desmays did not, in fact  
identify the Narcissus with the flower to which  
we now give that name, is clear also from  
the preceding line.

"Red hyacinth and yellow daffodil".

P. P. S. Your letter just arrived - no, not the  
hyacinth as the line just quoted proves.

It was not the book but the note I proposed sending.  
I enclose it, though the book wd be at your service

if you are all required to - & the more so that  
I have two copies - the original of 1836. &  
the re-issued of 1860.

Talking of Waltons you can account in  
the Chronicle, that Daniel's copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edn.  
sold for £ 27. & the Strawberry Hill copy  
of 1760. for £ 24. Also that Daniel's  
1<sup>st</sup> Edn. was the second-best extant - the  
first-best being in the possession of Mr.  
R. S. Holford,

My enquiry about the Fothermair's May,  
had reference to a query in it, in the  
Oct. number, as to why I had not included  
in my list of editions, one cited <sup>in</sup> the Old  
Museum Catalogue.

I have made search through the agency  
of a friend, & find there is no such  
book in existence, but you will see  
my reply, in the May for December.

Believe me, dear Sir

Faithfully yours

J. Westwood

Key for Cigueta: is not amongst the fairland - it  
was written too late - there are two others of  
Mason's best Botanical Documentaries.



January

10	7	Alba	Spice
15	10	Alba	Spice
20	15	Alba	Spice
25	20	Alba	Spice
30	25	Alba	Spice
1	30	Alba	Spice
2	1	Alba	Spice
3	2	Alba	Spice
4	3	Alba	Spice
5	4	Alba	Spice
6	5	Alba	Spice
7	6	Alba	Spice
8	7	Alba	Spice
9	8	Alba	Spice
10	9	Alba	Spice
11	10	Alba	Spice
12	11	Alba	Spice
13	12	Alba	Spice
14	13	Alba	Spice
15	14	Alba	Spice
16	15	Alba	Spice
17	16	Alba	Spice
18	17	Alba	Spice
19	18	Alba	Spice
20	19	Alba	Spice
21	20	Alba	Spice
22	21	Alba	Spice
23	22	Alba	Spice
24	23	Alba	Spice
25	24	Alba	Spice
26	25	Alba	Spice
27	26	Alba	Spice
28	27	Alba	Spice
29	28	Alba	Spice
30	29	Alba	Spice
31	30	Alba	Spice

February

1	1	Alba	Spice
2	2	Alba	Spice
3	3	Alba	Spice
4	4	Alba	Spice
5	5	Alba	Spice
6	6	Alba	Spice
7	7	Alba	Spice
8	8	Alba	Spice
9	9	Alba	Spice
10	10	Alba	Spice
11	11	Alba	Spice
12	12	Alba	Spice
13	13	Alba	Spice
14	14	Alba	Spice
15	15	Alba	Spice
16	16	Alba	Spice
17	17	Alba	Spice
18	18	Alba	Spice
19	19	Alba	Spice
20	20	Alba	Spice
21	21	Alba	Spice
22	22	Alba	Spice
23	23	Alba	Spice
24	24	Alba	Spice
25	25	Alba	Spice
26	26	Alba	Spice
27	27	Alba	Spice
28	28	Alba	Spice
29	29	Alba	Spice
30	30	Alba	Spice
31	31	Alba	Spice

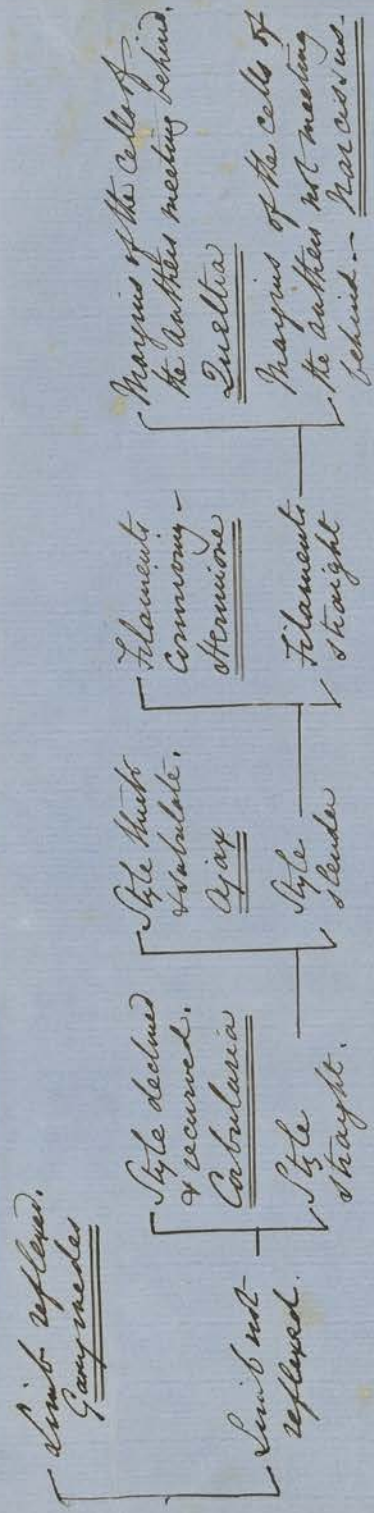






<i>ornatus</i>	20	<i>Perratus</i>	9
<i>Papyratea</i>	19	<i>Solaris</i>	15
<i>Parkinsoni</i>	11	<i>Spathulatus</i>	21
<i>Parvicorona</i>	13	<i>Spurus</i>	9
<i>Patellaris</i>	21	<i>Stellaris</i>	22
<i>Patula</i>	17	<i>Staminea</i>	18
<i>Perulea</i>	14	<i>Striatulus</i>	10
<i>Planicorona</i>	20	<i>Subalbida</i>	18
<i>Poculiforme</i>	11	<i>Subcrenata</i>	16
<i>Portarum</i>	20	<i>Sublutea</i>	14
<i>Porticus</i>	21	<i>Sulcicaules</i>	18
<i>Polyantha</i>	18	<i>Sulphurea</i>	16
<i>Præcox</i>	18	<i>Tazzetta</i>	16
<i>Prunulina</i>	14	<i>Telamoneus</i>	9
<i>Propinquus</i>	9	<i>Tenuiflora</i>	19
<i>Pseudo-narcissus</i>	8	<i>Tenuifolia</i>	7
<i>Pulchellus</i>	10	<i>Tenuis</i>	20
<i>Pumilus</i> . 7. 10.	20	<i>Treticaules</i>	14
<i>Recurva</i>	21	<i>Tortuosus</i>	8
<i>Reflexus</i>	10	<i>Terrivana</i>	16
<i>Rotularis</i>	14	<i>Triandrus</i>	10
<i>Rugilobus</i>	9	<i>Tripida</i>	15
<i>Rugulosa</i>	12	<i>Triflorus</i>	21
<i>Serotina</i> . 7. 10.		<i>Triloba</i>	12
<i>Simplex</i>	11	<i>Tricolor</i>	19

Narcissus according to Herbert Amey Chidee



<i>Haworth</i>	-	<i>Herbert</i>
<i>Cobularia</i>	-	<i>Cobularia</i>
<i>Ajax</i>	}	<i>Ajax</i>
<i>Orleus</i>		
<i>Ganymedes</i>	}	<i>Ganymedes</i>
<i>Aparacus</i>		
<i>Illus</i>		
<i>Quetta</i>	}	<i>Quetta</i>
<i>Dromedus</i>		
<i>Tros</i>		
<i>Schisanthus</i>	-	<i>Quetta</i>
<i>Philogyne</i>		
<i>Jonguilla</i>		
<i>Chlorostes</i>		
<i>Atermione</i>	-	<i>Atermione</i>
<i>Narcissus</i>	}	<i>Narcissus</i>
<i>Hesperis</i>		

J. Lindley (in Penny Encycl.) rejects all these distinctions, only retaining *Cobularia*.



## CORBULARIA CANTABRICA.

THIS beautiful little gem seems to be rebellious to all the modes of cultivation I have been able to employ. Hot-bed, greenhouse, open air, all seem alike to fail. I saw last year at Messrs. Backhouse's nurseries at York, 150 pots plunged in ashes, each containing a bulb, and amongst the whole I perceived one solitary leaf. Messrs. Barr & Sugden have imported the plant from Algeria by the thousand bulbs, and I believe they have been equally unsuccessful. Mr. Tyerman, of Tregony, has informed me that he has succeeded in forcing some bulbs to grow by stripping off all the outer coats. I myself have pots full of them, from two to four years planted: I look at them from time to time, and find that nearly all are alive, but they do not grow. I mentioned in your journal, some four or five years ago, that I had found some bulbs with growing leaves in my herbarium which had been gathered more than twenty years ago. A circumstance which I observed last spring at Algiers seemed to me to throw some light on the subject, which was this: The correspondent of Messrs. Barr & Sugden having sent over a large quantity of bulbs of *Corbularia*, had himself planted a handful in a pot, and placed them in a back yard in the town of Algiers. Within a fortnight every plant had shot forth leaves, and when I saw them they were 4 inches long. These bulbs had probably nearly all flowered during the previous three months. What I wish to infer from this experiment is that we let them lie too long before planting, and the bulbs' coats then get hardened by exposure to the air to such a degree that the hairy roots have not power to penetrate them, because the consignment to Messrs. Barr & Sugden, from which the few bulbs above referred to are taken, showed as much obstinacy as other imported bulbs. I have been equally troubled with other Algerian bulbs, such as *Narcissus elegans*, Spach; *Merendera filifolia*, Camb.; *Pancratium collinum*, Coss; all of which were gathered at the end of April, when the plants (which flower in autumn) were in a state of rest.

Some intelligent gardener will one day be able to civilise this beautiful little deliciously-scented *Corbularia*. Seeds would, no doubt, grow, and I endeavoured to procure some last spring, but the mice are so fond of them that they eat them, capsule and all, before they are ripe.

A somewhat similar example of the civilisation of a species occurred to me many years ago, when I introduced into Europe the beautiful *Linum grandiflorum*,



I sent seeds of this plant five successive years to the Garden of Plants in Paris. At first it would not grow; the next year it came up, but did not flower; then it flowered, but did not seed, until at length the perseverance of M. Decaisne brought it under subjection, and I have since repeatedly tried in my garden seeds of some scarlet-flowered Flax from its native habitat, but could never succeed in making them vegetate. Many of the Algerian bulbs are so encased in the indurated soil during summer that no air can penetrate to them, and the first autumnal rains gradually soften the soil, which being heated by the summer's sun, cause them to shoot out into flower in two or three days after there has been a sufficiency of rain to moisten the soil. A very remarkable circumstance is this—that of all the *Corbularias* which have grown in England I have only seen leaves and not one flower; whereas, had they been left in their native soil and climate, nine out of ten would have showed, first flower, and then a leaf. I am aware that it has been flowered at Kew, and I have seen it in cultivation at Montpellier many years ago. It ought to be quite hardy in England, for it grows naturally in Algeria, at great elevations, and in situations where frosts in winter are both frequent and severe. Near the coast it begins to flower in December, and in the interior (the *hauts plateaux*) it flowers as late as April.

It is not found, to my knowledge, within hundreds of miles of Algiers, but is very abundant in the neighbourhood of Oran, near the coast, and at Baghar, on the borders of the Desert, south of Algiers. The proper name of this plant is *Corbularia cantabrica*, Haworth; it was called *Narcissus Clusii* by Dunal, who gave a good figure of it in the *Bouquet Méditerranéen*, and there is another excellent figure of it in the *Scientific Exploration of Algeria*, under the name of *Corbularia monophylla*. Although known to Clusius, who describes it as a Spanish plant, I believe it has never been found in Spain since his time. Durieu de Maissonneuve is the first modern author who described it in the *Révue Botanique*, by Duchartre in 1846, vol. ii., p. 425.

If any of your correspondents should wish to experiment with this bulb, I shall be happy to supply them with fresh roots gathered last spring. *Giles Munby, Alice Holt, Farnham.* [A figure and description of this plant were given in our volume for 1870, p. 665.]

THE ANTIQUITY OF THE "PHEASANT'S-EYE [I.E., RED-RINGED] NARCISSUS."

To the EDITOR of the ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

SIR,—An accomplished writer on English rural life having recently taken it for granted that the red circle on the nectary of the *Narcissus poeticus* or "Pheasant's-eye Narcissus," is a modern invention, I venture, in defence of one of the most delightful associations of ancient poetry, to directly traverse this *ex cathedra*, but entirely baseless, assumption. Its author quotes, in all-sufficient proof of its being a self-evident proposition, the well-known lines of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* [III., 509-10] describing the transformation of the Bœotian youth, who flouted the mountain nymph Echo, into this fading flower: "In place of his body they found a yellow flower, with white petals encircling it, in the centre." But the Greek and Latin writers knew not one species or variety only of the Narcissus, but three or four. The Narcissus of Theocritus I., 133, and of Virgil in *Eclogue VIII.*, 52, and *Georgics IV.*, 161, includes every kind of Narcissus common to the countries of the Mediterranean Sea; but may be held to more particularly refer to the "Polyanthus Narcissus," or *N. Tazzetta*, the most widely distributed of all these Protean Amaryllids; and any one who knows it, or will turn to the picture of it (Plate XXIX.) in Burbidge's *Narcissus* (S. Reeve, 1875), will recognize that it is the plant referred to by Ovid; and the *nârkissos* of Homer's *Hymn to Demeter*; and of the *Cedipus at Colonus* of Sophocles, who qualifies it as *kallibotrus*—i.e., "beautiful clustering"—and the *nârkissos en mēsô krokoeidês* of Dioscorides. The "queen flowering Narcissus" of Pliny ["calix herbaceus" of XXI., 5 (12) and "herbaceum" of XXI., 19 (75)] must be our *N. viridiflorus*, although it may be *N. pseudo-Narcissus*, "the Common Daffodil." But Pliny also describes [XXI. 5 (12)] a Narcissus with "a purple cup" ["flore candido, calice purpureo"], which is undoubtedly identical with the "Narcissus purpureus" of Virgil in *Eclogue V.*, 38, and the *nârkissos en mēsô porphuroeidês* of Dioscorides [*cf.* also Theophrastus, VII., 11]; the epithet purple in all these instances referring most assuredly to the red rim of the frilled nectary of *Narcissus poeticus*: for the word "purple" was used by the Greeks and Romans like the word "bloody" by

our unclassed "masses," not so much as describing a specific colour as a universal expletive adjective indicating, *inter alia*, anything strangely and indescribably beautiful! Virgil's "Narcissus sera comans" [*Georgics IV.*, 122], generally identified with the *nârkissos* of Theophrastus VI., 6, and with the "serotini" of Pliny XXI., 5 (12), is our *N. serotinus*; while Pliny's "purple lilies" [XXI., 5 (12)] are possibly the ubiquitous "Jonquil."—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE BIRDWOOD.