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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.

B. Y. Morrison
Pass Christian, Miss.

The Southern Dew Flowers.

Some years ago, Dr. Caroline Dornon, wrote me with great enthusiasm about her dearly loved Commelina crispa with its myriad of butterfly like blossoms of a very pure and brilliant blue. As the only commelin I had known was the very prolific and troublesome C. communis I reported no interest whatever. Later, in spite of my attitude, she sent me three roots with a note that if I lost them a dire punishment would follow. She recommended a good soil, a place with little early morning sun, and regular moisture. No comment was made as to seeding, but only the note that if trimmed back in summer, it would flower well into the autumn.

The roots were planted in one of my nursery beds for azaleas as then I would certainly be able to guard against any prolific seeding.

The results have more than justified Dr. Dornon's enthusiasm and as not one seedling has appeared, my own fear of undue spread, has been killed. In fact, it is now a matter of genuine regret that I do not find seedlings.

The plant is a little late in showing in the spring, but it sends up slender branching stems that here are definitely prostrate, unless an azalea is in the way, in which case they manage to surmount it. The longest branches noted here, are about 16 inches long, each branching in turn, and with flowers terminal from each.

The blooms are about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide, with the two upper petals, of the most brilliant pure blue, between Salvia Blue and Spectrum Blue of Ridgway. The lower petal, white is barely, visible. The blooms open much earlier than I ever rise and last well to noon, as there is some broken shade over the area.

2- Commelina

Unlike the weedy species, this plant here, has ~~has~~ no tendency to root as it goes, as does the weedy species. No effort has been made to take cuttings and force rooting as too many other "projects" have been on hand. But this should be done, as the weedy species roots, and the nearly related Tradescantias all root freely. If any reader has any idea as to why there are no seeds formed, it would be received gratefully.

The short note in Small's Flora of South^h Eastern United States gives a range that does not include Mississippi which Dr. Dornon notes in her book on Southern flowers. In that book she notes another species, C. angustifolia that is reported in this State. After interest was truly aroused by her plant, an eye was kept for any commelina native here, and in the dry woods of this place, a species was found that has not yet been named, and no effort as yet has been made.

This plant, is lower in stature here, in the dry sites and is making a flat mat in the garden in the site to which it was transplanted. The flowers are smaller than those of the above mentioned species from Dr. Dornon, and have a distinct blue, paler in hue, Mazarine Blue of Ridgway. It is still too early to discover what its seeding habits may be, but a few small seedlings were found near the mother plants in the woodland. It is, however, the less splendid of the two.

As Small gives a total of seven other species omitting the weedy one, the writer would be interested to hear from others of any experience they may have had with plants from their areas.

The Chinese Squill.

Some years ago, Carl Starker sent the writer a few bulbs of Scilla chinensis with the note that they might or might not be successful here. They were planted in a border, near other small bulbous things and gave no sign of establishment for several seasons. Then, after producing a rosette, more or less regular, of broad yellow green leaves in August there appeared scapes of small pinkish lavender flowers. These open from the base of the scape, and the blooming period is extending for several weeks.

Seeding follows the same pattern so it is difficult to gather the seeds, from the tiny capsules. Some were gathered last season (1964), sown at once, on the usual sphagnum moss topped pot of soil, and germination began almost as swiftly as if the plant had been an amaryllid. The seedlings have continued to develop and doubtless should be transplanted one by one into another pot or flat. No data can ~~xxxx~~ indicate how long one must wait for blooming size.

This plant cannot be singled out for the praise that can be given the wide range of species and forms and clones usually grown in gardens, as it is not spectacular in color. Here it is of value on account of its August blooming period when it has little competition with any other bulbous thing of like stature. Such zephyranthes as are in bloom, do not compete but rather supplement, and as the showy spikes of several liriopes, that are also in bloom in August, are not near by there is no trouble.

This species is not mentioned in the recent book on bulbs by Patrick Synge, but he does note that the Genus Scilla

2- Chinese Squill

has recently been revised taxonomically, although he pays no notice to the changes, save for the Genus, Endymion, that is now used for the two species, S. hispanica and S. nutans, the common and so useful Spanish and English bluebells.

This reporter cannot vouch that the name Scilla chinensis is still valid, but he can note that the plant is valuable as a minor bulb for late summer bloom. Whether or not, it should be S. autumnalis, is a further doubt, but if that is one more late blooming species, it too should be sought out, even if it should have to be imported.

8/5/65

Native here

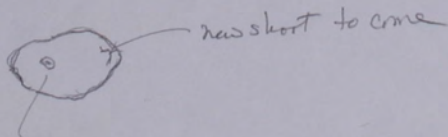


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Between Salvia Blue → Spectrum Blue

Sandersonia aurantiaca



new shoot to come

Scar from last
gamete

Route 1 Box 24,
Pass Christian, Miss., 39571
2 February 1965

Dear John:

Herewith:

Gardener's Pocketbook notes:

Lilium Browni 2 photos choose one.

Alstroemeria pulchella, one photo

Sandersonia aurantiaca, one photo.

Critical Comments; based on correspondence.
Review of On Gardening.

Can you see that this last goes to whoever attends to such matters at present? Thanks.

I enclose a postcard to let me know that these things have arrived and to save you the need to remember to tell me. This is quite enough, believe me.

It was 34 this morning at 5:30 but I doubt if there is damage. We have been having alternations of weather but it is a relief to have generally chilly weather after the premature spring that came in December and early January.

All best wishes,

Sincerely,

E. Y. Morrison

miattachements.

B.Y. Morrison
Rt. 1 Box 24,
Pass Christian, Miss., 39571

Alstroemeria pulchella

For the gardener who can grow successfully any of the other species of *Alstroemeria*, this is the least likely to claim attention, though it has its uses.

In many old Southern Gardens, it has been "in residence" so long that most persons have forgotten when they first had it or from whom it had come. In short, unless the garden is arid dry, it is almost indestructible, and in good gardens it can become a nuisance.

It was in the garden here when the writer came to live, and until he had to make some changes in the borders, the roots had never been seen. They are fleshy, many of them short, almost like tuberous roots, nearly white in color,

and permanent. From them start out the annual feeding roots which are fibrous. The storage tubers cluster about the bases of last years flowering stems.

In late autumn, short non-flowering stems rise to heights that vary from 4 to 8 inches, with almost glaucous leaves arranged in near whorls, and make ^a pleasant contrast with the darker green leaves of other herbs. Only very severe cold will ~~do~~ damage them. The flowering stalks come in early summer and rise to varying heights, mostly here about 14 inches, with narrow clasping leaves and a terminal umbel of lily-like flowers. These have unequal segments of green bordered with a bright red, on which are dull brownish dots. As the petals ~~do not~~ flare, the flowers do not appear as large as they really are.

2- Alstroemeria

In this garden, the plant is permanently located, not ~~pl~~ planted in various mixed borders and make a touch of color at seasons when nothing else is in bloom here.

All the borders are well enriched with humus and either are moist naturally or are watered in season.

9 During the time of bloom, the chief attraction for us, is the lure they make for the humming birds common in this region. These poise in front of the umbels and move from head to head, and away to other colonies. If there were no other virtue than this, it would suffice here.

After flowering, seed capsules form that are attractive in shape and marked by the formation of tiny spurs. If they are cut for drying before the seed capsules explode, the gardener may be astonished at the sounds as the seeds are expelled from the drying capsules. Here, seed has been poorly produced, although the capsules appear normal. This, however, may be a delusion, as young plants appear in many places to which we have not moved roots.

Nearly all failures to establish this plant when given from our garden to others have been due to the lack of water at the critical moment. Usually, even in otherwise poor conditions, even small pieces of roots will survive and astonish the gardener who thought all lost. This again, should be a warning, that the plant may become a nuisance, and no gardener should plant it thinking he can get rid of it, unless he will use chemical means.

E. Y. Morrison,
Pass Christian, Miss.

Lilium Browni

Such bulbs of this lily as are in the garden here in Pass Christian, Mississippi, were raised from seed sent the writer from a private grower in Hongkong. Seeds have been given to the Society for the Exchange list and will be again this season (1964-65). This is mentioned only because, other seeds of the same species have been offered, and ~~mmm~~ they may be more typical of the lily as described in texts, than the lilies resulting from our seed.

The basic difference here is the great lack of color patterns on the exterior of the petals, in fact an almost total lack of color.

In general the trumpet lilies, as far as tried have not been a complete success here, no matter what attention was given, and the excuse most likely to be offered is that they did not receive adequate feeding. They often persist and occasionally bloom, but one would not consider them as sure things in any garden planning.

This particular lily, as grown here under really poor conditions, with no feeding and rarely any watering, and most shameful of all, practically no weeding in the area, has been in place for over ten years, with bulbs of varying size, from the youngest or the slowest, even now yielding no more than a single flower, and the most successful over 8 feet in height and with up to 6 or 8 glorious flowers, that are larger than any other trumpet lily we have ever had. As the buds develop and approach the time for opening the effect is almost as striking as when the flaring petals that are wider than is usually thought, open. The first color as the buds develop and on the morning of the day when

2- L. Browni

the petals separate, is a faint yellow, so that one foolishly hopes that it may stay, but like many other fine plant yellows, this is perishable in light and the open flower is glistening white. There is a delightful scent that fills the air, though not as strong a perfume as that exhaled by the Philippine Lily that comes into bloom a month later. Browni here is usually at prime bloom in mid June to late June and the Philippine is from mid July till ~~late~~ early August with a few stragglers, usually seedlings that were slow to make their first flower.

If there are any complaints to offer, here, they would be only one, namely that the lily seed which germinates the first year, almost at once when sown, is slow to grow on and make a bulb that will grow on to flowering. As no two, under the casual cultivation, or lack of it, that is given here, develop at the same speed, one has lilies of all sizes of plant and variations in number of blooms.

Pass Christian, Miss.

Morrison
Rt. 1 Box 24
Pass Christian, Miss.
39571

Sandersonia surantiaca

Presumably it is a perilous thing to base any description of a plant from a single specimen, but if one must wait as many years as the writer did to see the plant, and it is worth a note, discretion is abandoned.

The subject of this note is not a plant that will make a huge display under ordinary garden conditions, but as its near relatives the Gloriosas are becoming better known not just as hothouse plants in the North but as good garden subjects in the South, it is worthy of some attention, probably more than the other member of the group, the Littonia.

The single root that came, after the years of waiting, was a small whitish affair like a rhizome, with one good tip and what appeared to be a bud for growth. As it looked so fragile, it was planted in a bulb pan, with a mixture of soil rich in humus but so mixed as to insure perfect drainage. A growing shoot developed in a short time, that looked in a way, like a feeble gloriosa shoots, except that the leaves have no tip, that curls to form a means of climbing by attachment. The growth continued to a height of about 18 inches, with buds appearing, as in Littonia, almost in the middle of the shoot, not at the upper levels. Since the plant seemed slender and not robust it was fastened to a light bamboo stake as can be seen in the illustration.

The flowers are pendent, and of most interesting formation, and coloring. The six parts of the flower are joined to form the bell like bloom, with clear indications of the segmentation, showing as tips of color at the top, and recurving lips along the margins of the corolla at its mouth. As the flower appears, it is a greenish yellow but the color alters as the bloom develops, with only the tips of the segments remaining as Calliste Green (Ridgway). The inflated upper portions begin as Mikado Orange but lighten to Deep Chrome, and the lower parts start as a yellowish green but change to ^{Deep} ~~Deep~~ Orange Yellow. Later, as the bloom ages, all color fades again until one has a papery, almost parchment colored bloom that persists for weeks. Here no ~~many~~ fruits were set, but no attempt to hand pollinate was attempted.

In about one month the shoot showed signs of withering and watering was reduced so that it ripened normally.

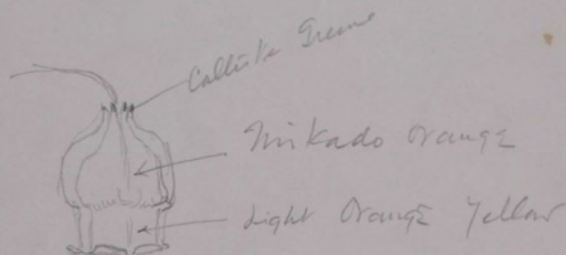
Later, when the pot had not been ^{moved} ~~returned~~ to cover so that no rain fell on it, a new shoot appeared, that grew to a somewhat greater height, and showed the same manner of flowering, below the uppermost axils of the leaves. This lasted about the usual month and again, no seed was formed.

The plant is now dormant and under cover, so that no water falls on it, and presumably will not start to growth again until spring, as these notes are written in February. Whether or not the rhizome has branched remains to be seen and no investigation will be made, for fear of damaging the whole, as it possibly cannot be replaced "on demand."

3-Sandersonia

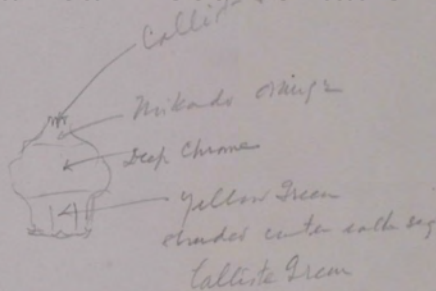
If and when it is possible to get roots of this in greater number it will be of interest to plant it in the open, since most of the Gloriosas are good garden plants in this area, and the species G. rothschildiana which is the major one for spring flowering, sometimes dies down and then reappears in the same season in the fashion of Sandersonia as reported. The writer is told that in a near by garden, this is true always for the Rothschild gloriosa, but that garden has deeper soil and more regular watering. If one had ten or more roots and could plant all in a great clump with the proper staking for growth upward, the effect of the small orangy bells would be fine.

Sandersonia aurantiaca 5/15/64



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undeveloped fl.



Min. Domin's Carmine is Phenyl Blue of Ridge, -

Critical Comment.

After the publication of the note on Allium triquetrum, with a "good character" given it for the writer's garden in Mississippi, a letter came from Dr. Frederick O. Coe, in Ross, California, to warn me, that there and in coastal gardens, it was a most invasive species, the spread apparently by seed. Dr. Coe urged that if used, all seed heads should be cut before the seed could ripen and spread.

Certainly in the garden here, the spread is only from seed, and here as reported, seed is not formed in abundance. Even so, gardeners should remember the risk involved in its use.

Another letter had to do with Androstephium caeruleum. Mr. Barr agrees that the plant has not had a "good press" but suggests that it might have been even better than was given. He writes in part: ".
 . . . Actually it is many years since I have grown corms of good size and have had maximum blooming. William Chase Stevens in Kansas Wild Flowers says that for a number of years the number of blooms to the umbel increases and I seem to remember that my best umbels carried six or eight flowers. A second reason is that --- if you can abide the criticism-- your segments appear pinched or quilled in the lower portion. This appears strange to me. Checking with Stevens, his photo does not show that defect, if I may call it that, but are reasonably wide and flat, as I believe they normally are with me. "

As a beginner with the plant, the writer offers no explanation of the difficulty here, that may have been responsible for the less-than-fine appearance of the bloom in the garden here, but there may be explanation in the age of the corns themselves, here only two years, in the difference in soil and moisture and a thousand and one possible additional factors, for there is certainly a vast difference between Coastal Mississippi and the Great Plains.

So, whatever the shortcomings of the flowers as shown in the issue of the magazine, the plant remains a plant that is worthy of the attention of other and better gardeners than the writer.

CLAUDE A. BARR

PRAIRIE GEM RANCH

Smithwick, South Dakota

Nov. 3, 1964.

Dear Mr. Morrison:

For quite a time I have had in mind that it was high time I was writing and just Friday I sent out my last plant order, which means that I now have time to do the thousand and one things that have been put back.

Looking through the new HORTICULTURAL I found your article on *Androstephium* and am glad to know that my falling down on sending you a portrait did not prove an insurmountable hindrance. I could not by any means have provided a better picture, yet as to "press" I am sure you should have had a better one, at least to match my opinion of the flower.

I have in fact never photographed it and what happened was that our winter and spring continued dry, my corms were doubtless too small to have produced representative umbels under the best of conditions, and as I was watching daily in the hope of more than two blossoms to the umbel out, a hail storm came that finished all prospects for the season.

Having studied this publication I still feel that, as you suggested, *Androstephium* deserves a better "press". Actually it is many years since I have grown corms of good size and have had maximum blossoming. William Chase Stevens in *Kansas Wild Flowers* says that for a number of years the number of blossoms to the umbel increases and I seem to remember that my best umbels carried six or 8 flowers. A second reason is that -- if you can abide the criticism -- your segments appear pinched or quilled in the lower portion. This appears strange to me, checking with Stevens' bits that does not show any defect. I am sure that that, but are reasonably wide and fairly flat, as I believe they normally are with me. Incidentally, if you do not have Stevens, there are only 2 flowers to the umbel and they are partly closed. Sooner or later I shall try for a better portrait. But once again I have only relatively small corms.

My sister and I went to Bellingrath Gardens. There had been severe frost damage but still we saw many beautiful camellias and others, making the side trip well worth while. Florida and North Carolina were both fine, much snow about at Asheville but with very decent temperatures. From there Brenda went directly home to Illinois, being afraid to chance the familiar snow and cold of Pittsburgh. Her fear was partly good. After some lovely days 20" of snow came and getting out spoiled two days. The snow lessened all the way west and two-thirds of the way across Nebraska I dug some plants with only a bit of frost in the ground, I had been away just five weeks.

1964 happened to be the fiftieth anniversary of the Class of '14 at Drake at Des Moines. That took a week. Getting my last (cactus) order of the spring season out on the morning of July 3, in the afternoon I left for Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado on a plant hunt of 10 days. Then in late September as a response to being put on as a director of the Rock Garden Society I flew to New York for a board meeting. Meantime many hours have been spent watering plants, saving practically all of 300 collected cacti and losing perhaps 60% of some 275 perennials -- practically no rain from June 19 to October 31, then a really good one.

Just now "the bug" urges me to take a week to check over the herbarium down at Baramie. Plant business, spring and fall has been heavy. I have done little writing.

My hour with you has been often pleasantly in mind. Which reminds me, I still have a few of your wonderfully fine pecans, guess I forgot them through the summer.

Sincerely yours,

Claude A. Barr

Box 697, Ross,
California, 94957
Nov. 5, 1964

Dear B.V. ,

The article on the various species and hybrids of *Zephyranthes* was a pleasant surprise when I opened the last issue, as I had started to collect some of these three or four years ago and was a little dissatisfied in the intensity of the color in "Prairie Sunset" and "Apricot Queen". Certainly the former was a pretty washed-out sunset to my way of thinking. I had just ordered a number of the species and hybrids offered in the Oakhurst catalogue so that I enjoyed the drawings and descriptions that you gave of them. The bulbs came yesterday and I am going to try them in a container rather than planted in the garden. I got one bulb of *Pyrolirion flammens* and planted it with the *Zephyranthes*. That should give some color if any of them bloom at the same time. I notice that Paul Hutchison is sending back a lot of bulbs from South America and I must get over to the U.C. Botanic gardens and see what has come in. He has also sent a number of cacti back and is selling part of them through a local dealer to help with his finances.

I did want to write a note of warning for the west coast growers of *Allium triquetrum*, at least in this coastal region. It is terribly invasive by seedlings and every flower head should be picked off as soon as it fades or there will be hundreds of seedlings by fall. In Ross there are a number of roads where the bulbs are packed in solid along the road edge for a yard or so and several hundred feet. I have left one patch of bulbs in a corner of my garden but am thinking very seriously of yanking them out because of the hundreds of grass-like seedlings from the few pods I missed. I'll be interested to see what you think of the plant after a few years. I have *Allium pulchellum* doing very well in a small patch and felt much the same way you do about *A. triquetrum*. It is nice because of the lack of onion scent to the foliage (at least all of the seedlings I have which I don't find mentioned in descriptions). The flowers are graceful and last quite a long time and the seedlings aren't too numerous. Do you know the plant at all? Mine came up from seeds that I collected while visiting Ray Williams a couple of years ago. They came up with seedlings of *Nerine masonorum* and had me stumped until they bloomed.

I have a note ready for the journal on *Ornithogallum aurantiacum* which I got from Ray Williams last spring. There were a number of bulbs but only one bloomed with really golden flowers, the others were various creamy shades. I've left the bulbs in a pot and will grow some seedlings from the good one before I risk it outside, although *O. saundersiae* wasn't even touched last winter by the frost.

I had a nice note from Fred Lee the other day and it sounds like he has his work cut out for a while getting the revision of the book finished. He said that he hoped that the Planned Parenthood people would take up the cause of azalea breeding. I have about 80 seedlings of a cross between Helen Close and Ama Casa coming along under fluorescent lights. I threatened him with naming them all and introducing them before they flower.

I had a long note in the mail today from Les Hannibal. He says that he has 15 gallons of seeds off of his *Brunsvigia* crosses. I hope to get a look at his slides taken on his trip to Australia and New Zealand recently. He said he had written you recently and sent some material on *Crinum*s.

There is another pestiferous plant in gardens out here that I had not heard of before. It is *Notoscordum fragrans* and it too spreads by seedlings but also makes offsets like mad and is difficult to pull without missing some of the bulblets.

I want to try to get all the species of *Romulea* that I can and try them in my garden. I have two or three of the less showy European species but haven't found a source for the South African species. I wonder if you have tried any of these or is the winter too much for them?

Now that my parents have moved out to Berkeley my father has gotten interested in ferns, fuchsias and rhododendrons as well as wild plants. He has all of the trilliums available from Robbins and I have dug some T. ovatum to go with them. Now he is trying to locate a source for T. nivale and T. rivale. I don't know how well these will do in his garden, but certainly all of the southeastern species I have tried have done well.

I have another project going here trying to grow the various available species of arums. I would like to get A. cretica but can find no source for it in the U.S. so far. I've also gotten some of the Zantedischia species and other various and sundry members of the arum family to try out. A. italicum is common here in the county and one of the very stinky species of the Araceae is found in quite a few places (I don't have my books here, so I can't give you the name) in large clumps, apparently planted years ago.

I'll quit now and get this off. Here's hoping this winter coming up isn't too severe for you down in the sunny south.

Yours,
Frederick