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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 Juno Group of Iris Species in Asia Minor
By W. Siehe, Mersina, Asia Minor.

Allgemeine Botanische Zeitschrift, No 7/8 July-August, 1905.

Ten years of explorations in Asia Minor have given me the opportunity to learn to know the exquisite iris species of this group flowering in early spring and to find that Iris persica, as described by Bossier, is not tenable. The Iris persica of gardens has bright green, never grass green leaves, does not occur at Halys in Cappadocia, and the plants referred to in the description by the Hollander, as it forms are good species, as for example I. purpurea (not persica var. purpurea). The new species which I have found establish this; they are as different from one another as are I. germanica, sambucina, pallida, etc. The species from the Asia Minor peninsula in a narrow sense (I will return to Mesopotamia somewhat later) may be classified as follows:

1. Single flowered

A. Leaves bright green without white margin.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| 1. <u>I. persica</u> L. |) | blue white |
| 2. <u>I. Heldreichi</u> Siehe |) | and |
| 3. <u>I. tauri</u> Siehe |) | violet |

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------|
| 4. <u>I. Bolleana</u> Siehe |) | yellow |
| 5. <u>I. issica</u> Siehe |) | |

B. Leaves glaucous, conspicuously edged white.

6. I. purpurea Siehe
7. I. Haussknechti Siehe.
8. I. galatica Siehe.

2. Many-flowered, yellow.

A. Leaves bright green, without white border, very broad.

9. I. palaestina Baker.

B. Leaves dark green, sharply bordered with white, narrow.

10. I. caucasica Hoffm.

All these sorts are characterized by their long bulbs, which possess at their base several fleshy roots persisting after the period of vegetative growth, which again produce lateral roots.

These fleshy roots at the base of the bulb can entirely reproduce themselves, that is, develop a new plant, otherwise the description of Bossier is correct for the described species which all resemble one another in fruit.

I. Single-Flowered.

1. Iris persica L.

This plant long distributed in gardens does not come from Cappadocia and does not have gray green but bright green leaves. The flower is clear or pale (whitish) blue, the three outer perianth segments with broad, golden yellow stripes and toward the tip with sharply defined, deep violet blue blotches. It scarcely belongs here, not occurring in Asia Minor, but I include it to prevent further confusion.

2. Iris Heldreichi Siehe

This, the most beautiful of the group as well as the largest, I discovered in 1896 at the end of January in the foothills of the Taurus Mts. It was first considered a form of Iris persica. Haussknecht in Weimar, who determined many plants at that time, named it stenophylla Hausskn. and Siehe. Haussknecht has expressly permitted me to disregard this name in a letter which I still have. Unfortunately it has been figured under the title of this overruled name in the "Botanical Magazine" (Rf. B. M. 7734).

The flower is wholly a beautiful cobalt blue, with the three outer perianth segments showing a deep violet patch at their tips. The yellow veining of the central part (of the haft) is not conspicuous (beyond the style branch). Leaves green, narrow.

Cilician Taurus, 400 - 1300 m. local: end of January to beginning of April.

3. Iris tauri Siehe.

Entirely dark violet, smaller than the preceding. The three large perianth segments with intense golden yellow central stripe and white lateral stripes, the patch at the revolute tip, blackish violet, not sharply defined. Underside of the falls greenish in the center.

Leaves bright green, very broad.

Cilician Taurus, S. & N. sides very local.
1200 - 2000 m. Alpine (See B. M. 7793).

4. Iris Bolleana Siehe.

Ground color bright yellow, without markings, with a brilliant violet patch at the base of the revolute falls.

Foothills of the Taurus. 200- 1000 m.

5. Iris issica Siehe.

Similar to the preceding, but entirely bright straw yellow without any markings. Leaves bright green. Rare in East Cilicia mountains near Issus.

6. Iris purpurea Siehe.

This beautiful species has long been in the hands of gardeners as a variety of persica. Its native heath I do not know, yet I have found it here in the same regions as I. persica. The small flower is entirely red purple with intense golden yellow stripes in the center of the falls, which carry on their somewhat revolute tips a patch that grows even darker purple.

Leaves gray green, edged white.

7. Iris Haussknechti Siehe.

The ground color of this flower is silver gray with more or less tinting of Bordeaux red. The falls are more deeply tinted at the base with Bordeaux red, but this coloring does not have the character of a blotch. The central stripe golden yellow, lined and dotted with brownish purple.

In the entire Cicilian Taurus occurring only in the lower forest regions abundant only in a few places.

In South Cappadocia with few variations.

Leaves gray green, slender.

8. Iris galatica Siehe

This beautiful species I found in past years in Galatia. In coloring this is uncommonly variable. The ground color is bright yellow, with more or less veining of bright blue; the patch on the fall is sharply defined, brilliant bright violet. There occur almost pure blue flowers and also others pure yellow. The standards in this species are larger than in its relatives.

Galatia, North Cappadocia.

Iris galatica is certainly one of the most beautiful iris species.

2. Many flowered, yellow.

9. Iris palestina, Baker

10. Iris caucasica Hoffm.

These are both familiar plants, the first belonging apparently to the north Syria regions.