

PLANT NOTES

Compiled by A. J. WILMOTT.

+21/15. **Papaver atlanticum** (Ball) Cosson; *P. rupifragum* Boiss. & Reut. var. *atlanticum* Ball, 1873: in *Journ. Bot.*, 11, 296; *P. atlanticum* Cosson, 1882: *Ill. Fl. Atlant.*, fasc., 1, 11, t. 6.

21, Middlesex, City of London bombed sites. In the autumn of 1946 I noticed a Poppy growing on rubble in the vicinity of Gresham Street and Aldermanbury with capsules which resembled those of our British *P. dubium*. In May 1947 it was obvious from the unusual colour of the flowers (brick- or orange-red) and the long white hairs on the leaves and lower stem that the plant belonged to an alien species. During the summer it increased considerably and by the autumn it was plentiful on debris over an area of about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile square about Wood Street and London Wall. My material is a perfect match for that used for *Bot. Mag.*, t. 7107, in Herb. Kew, and differs only in luxuriance from Ball's original specimens. Seed of this rare Moroccan species of the Great Atlas mountains was probably deliberately sown on the bombed sites by a gardening enthusiast but it has shown itself capable of persisting and increasing its area.

This plant is very easily distinguished from the green, subglabrous Spanish *P. rupifragum* by the long hairs on the stem and leaves which give them a greyish appearance. From *P. lateritium* C. Koch, 1855: "*Ind. sem. hort. Berol.*"; Boissier, 1867: *Fl. Orient.*, 1, 108, from Armenia, it may be known by the more slender habit, grey instead of yellow hairs on the stem and leaves, smaller and less orange petals, and longer clavate (as compared with stout obovate-clavate) capsules. Spain rather than Morocco should be given in the *British Plant List* (21/12) as the native country of *P. rupifragum*.—J. E. LOUSLEY.

+80/1e. **RAPHANUS RAPHANISTRUM** L. var. **violaceus** Woerlein, 1885: *Deutsch. Bot. Monatsschr.*, 3, 50; O. E. Schulz, 1919: in Engler, *Pflanzenreich*, 4 (105), 200, in syn. under var. *purpurascens* Dum., qui est nomen tantum. *R. Raphanistrum* L. ssp. *communis* Domin, var. *typicus* Domin, f. *purpureus* [Rchb.] Domin, 1910: *Beihefte Bot. Centralbl.*, 26 (2), 256. *R. Raphanistrum* L. var. *purpureus* (Domin) Schinz et Keller, 1914: *Fl. der Schweiz*, II Teil (Kritische Flora), ed. 3, 132. *R. Raphanistrum* L. ssp. *segetum* (Baumg.) Clavaud, subvar. *arvensis* (Rchb.) Thell., f. *carneus* Thell., 1918: in Hegi, *Ill. Fl. Mittel-Europa*, 4 (1), 277.

Petals pinkish-purple, with dark purple veins which show up very distinctly on dried material. Occurs rather rarely in central and southern Europe, and introduced into South America.

21, Middlesex; blitzed site, Ravenscourt Park, London, W.6, 2nd August 1947, N. Y. SANDWICH [Ref. No. 3237]. In addition, this specimen has hispid pods (*R. Raphanistrum* L. forma *hispidus* Lge.). In the same locality there were found specimens with the claw and lower part of the limb of the petals yellow, passing into a curious reddish-brown colour in the upper part of the limb, the veins being dark blackish-purple [N. Y. Sandwich, Ref. No. 3236]. The pods of these specimens were glabrous. This form, for which no name has been traced, may be a cross between var. *violaceus* and var. *ochroleucus* (Stokes) Peterm.—N. Y. SANDWICH.

100/6(2). ***Cerastium brachypetalum*** Pers. The discovery of this plant by E. Milne-Redhead (1947: *Naturalist*, 822, 95-96) in Bedfordshire adds another species of continental Europe to the British list. A very useful key for the diagnosis of the small-flowered British species of *Cerastium* is appended.—[F. A. Sowter.]

Like *C. viscosum* L., it has completely herbaceous bracts, but they, like the sepals, are exceeded by a pencil of hairs and the whole plant is grey-hairy and generally (not always) densely glandular. It is a rather slender plant distinguished by its long pedicels, which are longer than the fruit. Petals normally much shorter than the sepals. Filaments ciliate (not, as in *C. viscosum*, glabrous). It is one of the species mentioned in 1917 by C. E. Salmon (at the Linnean Society) as likely to occur in the British Isles, although its known station is somewhat suspect.—A. J. WILMOTT.

+155/12b. **TRIFOLIUM SUBTERRANEUM** L. var. **oxaloides** (Bunge) Rouy, 1899: *Fl. Fr.*, 5, 99; Aschers. & Graeb., 1908: *Syn.*, 6, (2), 597; Briquet, 1913: *Prod. Fl. Corse*, 2, (1), 314. *T. subterraneum* subsp. *T. oxaloides* Bunge ap. Nyman, 1878: *Consp.*, 177.

On June 18, 1947, I was botanising with Dr Cyril West and Mr J. E. Woodhead in a gravel pit at Eaton Socon, Bedfordshire, v.-c. 30, which has become well known in recent years for the interesting aliens it produces. My attention was attracted by a very large unfamiliar clover with stems well over 80 cm. long sprawling over a patch of bare gravel, with petioles up to cm. long, and leaflets up to 2.75 cm. broad by 2.25 cm. long. The plant obviously had the characters of *T. subterraneum* but the large fruiting heads and villous leaves suggested that it must be something more than a colony of giant examples of the native species.

Comparison with herbarium material and descriptions of var. *longipes* H. Gay showed that the characters were much more extreme than in that variety and although authentic material of var. *oxaloides* is not available there can be no doubt that the Eaton Socon plant should be so referred. The var. *oxaloides* appears to be a rare Mediterranean variety distributed from as far apart as Constantinople and Portugal but material grown at Aberystwyth in 1920 from seed believed to have come from Australia (Hb. Kew) is identical. It seems that *T. sub-*

terraneum is grown as a crop in Australia and clearly only a large variety such as this would be suitable. The plant has been known to have been introduced into this country in wool (Hayward & Druce, 1919: *Adventive Fl. Tweedside*, 60) and as other Australasian wool aliens are recorded from Eaton Socon this is likely to have been the origin of the present plants.

Mr E. Milne-Redhead collected young and less representative material of the same variety from the gravel pit on May 5, 1946 (Hb. Kew) so that it persisted for at least two years. I have collected specimens which approach it in Scilly (Abbey Grounds, Tresco, 1938, *Exsicc. Isles of Scilly*, No. 113, Hb. Lousley) and J. W. White had similar intermediate specimens from Jersey (Churchyard, St Brelades, 1897, *Hb. Kew*). As Ascherson & Graebner suggest, *T. subterraneum* var. *oxaloides* is a remarkable plant which deserves further observation.—J. E. LOUSLEY.

†155/15(2). **Trifolium elegans** Savi. 1798: *Fl. Pisana*, 2, 161, tab. 1, fig. 2; 1810: *Observ. Trifol.*, 92.

16, W. Kent, Green Street Green near Orpington. On July 5, 1947, I was botanising with Mr J. E. Woodhead in a pit filled in with rubbish where many interesting aliens had been found in the past, when a clover with bright rose-coloured flowers attracted our attention. Comparison with Savi's description and illustration and with ample material from the Mediterranean region at Kew showed that it was *T. elegans*. The sprawling habit, smaller, rounder and more obtuse leaves, and smaller flower-heads (c. 2 cm. across as compared with c. 2½ cm.) distinguish this species from the Alsike Clover, *T. hybridum* L. s. str. (= "*T. fistulosum* Gilib.," *Fl. Lithuan.*, 46, 1785, *nomen abortivum*), generally grown in Britain. Although connected by many intermediate forms, the two plants are characteristic of different geographical areas and are probably best treated as species, or at least as subspecies as is done in most recent continental works. They have been much confused and, for example, the accounts given by Rouy (1899: *Fl. France*, 5, 81-82) and Ascherson & Graebner (1907: *Syn. Mitteleur. Fl.* 6 (2), 495-496) are misleading. Those of Koch (1857: *Syn. Fl. Germ.*, ed. 2, 151-152), Hegi (1924: *Ill. Fl. Mitteleur.*, 4 (3), 1299-1302) and Jansen & Wachter (1924: *Ned. Kruidk. Arch.*, 1923, 217-226) are much more reliable. The following specimens in Herb. Kew represent *T. elegans* Savi: Schultz, *Herb. norm.*, cent. 3, No. 244; Schultz, *Fl. Gall. & Germ.*, cent. 2, No. 23 (cited by Koch); Michalet, *Pl. Jura*, fasc. 1, No. 11; Van Heurck & Martinis, *P. . . Belg.*, fasc. 7, No. 315; Fiori & Beguinot, *Fl. Ital.*, 3, No. 2464. Material distributed by C. E. Britton as *T. elegans* is *T. hybridum*.—J. E. LOUSLEY.

†365/4. **ACHILLEA LIGUSTICA** All. 41, Glamorgan; waste ground, Barry Dock, July 13, 1924, R. MELVILLE; *ibid.*, August 1930, G. C. DRUCE. Each of these gatherings was distributed through the Exchange Club under the name *Achillea nobilis* L., see *B.E.C. 1924 Rep.*, 726

(1925), and 1930 *Rep.*, 516 (1931), and no alternative name was submitted; while *A. nobilis* was retained as the name for this plant in the *Adventive Flora of the Port of Cardiff* and its second supplement (*B.E.C. 1925 Rep.*, 1016 (1926); 1938 *Rep.*, 79 (1939)), the latter referring to a Cardiff, not to a Barry, plant). *A. ligustica* All., with which the Barry specimens are evidently to be identified, is distinguished from *A. nobilis* by the much larger, less crowded, ultimate segments of the leaves, which tend to be bi- instead of tri-pinnatisect; while its lower leaves have 5-6 (instead of 8-15) pairs of primary segments which are divided into distinct, linear-lanceolate, sometimes divided laciniae. The involucre bracts have no brown colouring on the margins, but this is of doubtful value as a diagnostic character. *A. ligustica* has a more southern and Mediterranean distribution than *A. nobilis*. The Bristol plants identified as the latter species, as well as those from Par, Cornwall, prove to be correctly named. The Barry specimens at Kew were first referred to *A. ligustica* by the late Mr A. R. Horwood.—N. Y. SANDWICH.

†370/17b. *CHRYSANTHEMUM CORONARIUM* L. var. **discolor** Urville, 1822: *Enum. Pl. Or.*, 112. 6, N. Somerset; tip at Ashton Gate, Bristol, June 1939, Mrs C. I. SANDWICH; rays creamy white. This variety is characterised by its white rays and golden disk. It occurs throughout the Mediterranean Region with the typical, and commoner, form with golden rays and disk, var. *concolor* Urv., *loc. cit.*—N. Y. SANDWICH.

†480/11. *Gentiana asclepiadea* L. A handsome Gentian frequently grown in gardens now semi-naturalised in Sussex (see *Plant Records*). It is a tall (30-100 cm.) plant of woods and wet meadows in central and southern Europe, also in the Carpathians. The large flowers occur singly in each axil of the upper pairs of rather distant ovate-lanceolate attenuate leaves. The corolla is cuneate-campanulate, longish, deep bright blue (or white) with glabrous throat.—A. J. WILMOTT.

†512/4. *Ipomoea lacunosa* L. A sparingly hirsute annual with long slender twining stems and entire leaves; 1-3 flowered, sepals nearly glabrous, ovate, 10-12 mm. Corolla 1.5-2 cm. long, tube white, funnel-shaped. Capsules subglobose, over 1 cm. in diameter. Native of U.S.A., Pennsylvania to Kansas, South Carolina and Texas. 21, Middx.; under the wall of Soya Foods Ltd., Springwell, north of Harefield, 1947.—D. H. KENT.

†527/1b. *VERBASCUM PHLOMOIDES* L. var. **albiflorum** (Rouy) Wilmott differs in its white corolla. 21, Middx.; rubbish tip, Northolt, with the typical plant, 1947.—D. H. KENT.

†543/23(2)B. *VERONICA AUSTRIACA* L. subsp. **Jacquini** (Baumgarten) Watzl, 1910: *Abh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien.* 5, 5, 63; *V. Jacquini* Baumgarten, 1816: *Enum. Stirp. Trans.*, 1, 26, based on *Jacquin*, 1776: *Fl.*

Austr., 4, 15-16, t. 329; *V. austriaca* L. proles *Jacquini* Maly, 1908: *Magy. bot. Lap.*, 229. Native of N. Italy, Austria, Hungary, Galicia, the Balkans, Mid.- and S.-Russia, Caucasus and Asia Minor. Leaves sessile, pinnate with linear divisions; those of the terminal shoots less deeply divided or sometimes entire. (The more northerly subsp. *dentata* (Schmidt) Watzl has leaves shortly stalked, oblong to linear-lanceolate and more or less toothed, those of the terminal shoots being narrower and usually entire). 21, Middx.; tip near Ruislip, September 1947.—Mrs MOODY per Miss C. M. ROB. Det. & comm. J. E. LOUSLEY.

[It is not known to which subsp. earlier records belong. Specimens should be sent for determination.—A.J.W.]

†628/2. *EUPHORBIA DULCIS* L. All the British specimens examined by me have glabrous and warty capsules, and therefore come under var. *purpurata* (Thuill.) Koch, 1837: *Syn. Fl. Germ. et Helvet.*, 628; Rouy, 1910: *Fl. France*, 12, 152. This is the common form of the species in Western Europe. The typical, and Linnean, form of the species is var. *lasiocarpa* Neir., 1859 (var. *typica* Beck, 1892), with hairy and warty capsules, which is most usually met with in East and North Central Europe; see Kerner, 1882: *Sched. ad Fl. Exsicc. Austr.-Hung.*, 2, 44-45, No. 495). *E. purpurata* Thuill. was maintained as a distinct species by Kerner, *l.c.*, pp. 45-46, No. 496, but not by later writers of standard works, such as Rouy, Fiori, Hegi and Hayek. Hegi (5 (1), 155) gives var. *incompta* Cesati as the name for the glabrous-fruited plant, but Cesati (1838: *Bibl. Ital.*, 91, 348; see *Linnaea*, 13, 88 (1839) and the *Index Kewensis*) published his name as a species, and in any case his name is later than Koch's reduction of *E. purpurata* Thuill. to varietal rank.—N. Y. SANDWICH.

637/1j. *URTICA DIOICA* L. var. *SUBINERMIS* Uechtr. 17, Surrey; Bookham Common, with the normal stinging form, 1947, D. MACER-WRIGHT. Uechtritz (1863: *Verh. bot. Ver. Brandenb.*, 5, 146) says (transl.): "mostly quite without stinging hairs," but adds: "upper leaves both narrower and less distinctly cordate-based." As one would now presume, there is no correlation between the two variations. At Bookham the stinging and non-stinging plants look otherwise identical, both are broad leaved. At Wicken Fen (29, Cambs.) the non-stinging plants are "var. *angustifolia* Wimm. & Grab." The epithet *subinermis* is not as inappropriate as it may at first appear, for it is not that the compound "urticoid" hairs will not sting but that they are nearly absent; if trouble is taken to test the one or two scattered compound hairs that can be found, they can be made to give a slight prick, but whether as pungently as a single one of the normal form is difficult to judge.—Det. & comm. A. J. WILMOTT.

650/10(2). *SALIX CINEREA* L. The points of distinction between this species and *S. atrocineræa* Brot. have been set out in a paper by Guinier (1911: *Un Saule peu connu de la Flore de France (Salix atro-*

cinerea Brot.); *Bull. Soc. bot. France*, 58, ix-xxi). He describes *Salix cinerea* as a very densely branching globular bush, the branches coming from the base of the plant in the open although in shade the stem is often bare at the base; the branches are suberect, sinuous, and normally not elongated, pubescent with short dense greyish hairs (like velvet) when young, the hairs persisting all the first year and part of the second, so that the plant is recognisable from a distance by its habit and ashy grey colouring. The buds are densely greyish tomentose. Leaves rarely entire, usually undulate or even erose-dentate; upper surface pubescent with short rather scarce but persistent hairs, dark matt green more or less ashy; underside strongly velvety tomentose, ashy from the long whitish uniformly spread hairs. Flowers in the catkins opening basipetally. Pedicels 3-5 times the length of the nectaries. A plant of wet (damp) places—watersides, ditches, marshes, and damp meadows, never in ordinary open places and rarely in woods (then near rivers).

S. atrocinerea Brot. is described as a taller plant with irregular branching, foliage dark green showing some greyish tones. Branches glabrous when fully developed, at first with more feeble pubescence of short much fewer hairs which do not mask the colour of the shoot, the young branches being brown; the hairs are often easily caducous and the branches often glabrous in the middle of the vegetative season, though near the sea pubescence may persist into the second year. Buds with rare and caducous pubescence, glabrous and shining in winter. Leaves usually entire, only slightly undulate and very rarely erose, with very fine (scarcely visible) teeth; upper surface with a few hairs at first, rapidly glabrous, deep shining green; underside with abundant waxy covering, the hairs short, easily caducous especially on the nerves, reddish when old, wherefore the colour is glaucous more or less flecked with red, from which the nerves stand out by their fawn colour. Flowers opening basifugally. Pedicels of female flowers about $\frac{3}{4}$ the nectaries, which are longer. The plant is less exacting in its water requirements; it will grow in wet (damp) places, but also grows in places which are not humid—hedges, ordinary meadows, forests—so long as the soil is siliceous or granitic: on calcareous soils it is confined to near water.

Both species have long striae under the bark.

I do not feel sure how far this description of *S. atrocinerea* is correct for British material. In the British Isles it is very variable, and the characters given by Guinier should be tested in the field. Guinier records *S. cinerea* for Britain—"Yorks: Herb. Fac. de Science de Nancy." J. E. Little thought that he had it from Herts. Otherwise the first British record was made on the Bedford excursion (1947), and Dr E. F. Warburg independently collected it on Wicken Fen (Cams.), verifying his opinion with me this year by comparison with European specimens in *Herb. Mus. Brit.*—A. J. WILMOTT.