

Yet another *Erica* hybrid: *E. x garforthensis*

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This hybrid has been made twice, once in Yorkshire and later in British Columbia. As long ago as 1983 Dr John Griffiths of Leeds crossed *Erica tetralix* 'Bartinney' with *E. manipuliflora* subsp. *manipuliflora* 'Aldeburgh'. Of the 15 seedlings, which were 'pretty much the same' he kept just one. This after 15 years annual pruning was about 30 inches (80cm) high. He found that it did not flower well, so it seemed to be of scientific interest only. Its scent had come from the pollen parent.

Later, independently and unaware of John's work, David Wilson of Chilliwack, British Columbia, crossed the same species, the clones being respectively 'Melbury White' and 'Korçula' (which is *E. manipuliflora* subsp. *anthura*). These crosses differ only in that they have more, larger and rather paler flowers, and the scent is weaker. I have specimens of these plants.

The name of this cross must reflect the fact that Dr Griffiths of Garforth, Leeds, was the first to make this cross hence:

Erica x garforthensis D. C. McClintock **hyb. nov.**

Erica tetralix x *E. manipuliflora*. *Hybrida nova artificialis. Frutex sterilis inter parentes intermedius ad 80cm altus. Foliis 3–4mm glabris; floribus racemis confertis ramosis; odoratis; sepalibus 1.5–1.8mm, lobis erecto-patentibus pubescentibus; corollis 3–6mm rubro-purpureis antheris inclusis, stigmatibus capitatis exsertis.*

TYPE: CULTIVATED: *E. tetralix* 'Bartinney' x *E. manipuliflora* 'Aldeburgh'. Garden at 9 Ashlea Close, Garforth, Leeds, September 1998, J. Griffiths (WSY holo.)

A sterile **shrub** of horticultural hybrid origin, intermediate between its parents, up to 80cm tall. **Flowers** in dense, branched racemes; scented; sepals 1.5–1.8mm, lobes erect-patent; **corolla** 3–6mm, red-purple; anthers included; stigma capitate, exserted.

David Wilson has two of his clones likely to be named after being grown on further, one with the name of his daughter (see pp 18-21 following).

John Griffiths and David Wilson gave essential help with this note and Professor William Stearn looked over the Latin description.



11 year old Tracy Wilson (left) standing alongside *Erica x garforthensis* 'Tracy Wilson' beside her left foot which can be seen in more detail (above).