

NOTES ON THE NARCISSI OF PORTUGAL

Having received numerous applications from friends in England for information respecting the various species and varieties of the Narcissus family found in this country, I venture to give a resumé of my observations made during the years 1885 and 1886; I do so with diffidence as my knowledge of Botany is very limited, but being fond of horticulture, and having been infected with Narcissomania by Mr. C. Wolley Dod, Mr. P. Barr, Professor Henriques of Coimbra, & Mr. Corder, I have explored a large portion of Northern Portugal, & succeeded in obtaining a number of species & varieties some of which may be of interest to British collectors.

Spain is mentioned by some of the old writers such as Parkinson, as the habitat of most of the Narcissi described by them, but it should be borne in mind that at the period in which they wrote Portugal belonged to Spain and was therefore considered as part of it; and after consulting works on Spanish Botany, especially Professor Wilkomm's splendid work, «Prodomus Flora Hispanica». I consider that a greater number of species and varieties are found in Portugal than in Spain.

In a year or two when the bulbs I have sent to England have flowered properly it is to be hoped that more light will be thrown on this subject.

I have to thank my friends Mr. C. Wolley Dod, Mr. Barr, Mr. Corder & Professor Henriques for their kindness in assisting me in many ways, if my researches and observations prove to be of any value it is entirely due to the encouragement I have received from these gentlemen.

Oporto, 20th May 1886.

Alfred W. Tait.

LIST OF PORTUGUESE NARCISSUS

N.º 1. *Corbularia*, the form found near Oporto flowering from 13th February to 23rd March at an altitude of 20 to 100 feet above sea level, soil sandy loam, well drained, this is a short stemmed rich yellow flowered *Bulbocodium* with twisted rush like leaves, but in the damper situations the scape & leaves are longer and more erect.

N.º 2. *Corbularia*, the form found near Ovar about 20 miles south of Oporto, flowering 20th March to 20th April, altitude 10 to 50 feet above sea level, soil sandy alluvial, very wet and often inundated in winter and not very dry in summer, the leaves & scape are much longer than N.º 1 and the flower larger, also the bulb which is often as large as that of the English wild *Pseudo-Narcissus* the flower is rather inflated, it appears to correspond with plate 88 of the *Botanical Magazine* and also to Parkinson's plate 6 page 107. — It flowers later than any other *Narcissus* in Portugal altho' it grows in hot marshes near the sea & close to rice fields.

N.º 3. *Corbularia*, a form found at Cantanhede about 40 miles south of Oporto flowering about 10th April, altitude about 30 feet, in a wet red clay soil probably baked dry in summer, this is very similar in form & size to N.º 2 but grows in quite a different soil & flowers earlier, Mr. Moller of the Coimbra Botanical Gardens considers it to be the *N. Obesus* of Salisbury.

N.º 4. *Corbularia Nivalis* flowering from 1st March to 15th May according to altitude, altitude 1,500 to 4,600 feet on mountain ranges in a soil composed of granite sand and leaf mould, I have found this species on the hills near Povoa de Lanhoso and in the Gerez mountains but I believe it is met with on other mountains in Portugal, it is similar in appearance to N.º 1 but differs in the colour of the flowers which are paler and the bulb is much lighter in colour sometimes quite white, specimens were sent to Mr. Wolley Dod & by him submitted to Mr. J. G. Baker of Kew who classified them as *Nivalis*.

N.º 5. *Corbularia*, A double flower form of *Corbularia*, found on 17th April at Ovar in very dry sandy soil about

200 feet above sea level, leaves slender & rush like, dwarf, bulb small & in most respects resembling N.º 1; a clump of about 8 or 10 plants were found by my collector, one of which being in flower, I have planted all these in hopes that the double flowers may be permanent.

N.º 6. A natural hybrid which I suppose to be *N. Nivalis* × *Triandrus*, flowering 24th April to 17th May in the Gerez mountains, altitude about 3,500 feet in same soil as N.º 4. The first time I saw this plant was on 17th May 1885 during an excursion to the Gerez mountains with Mr. Corder, on that occasion we found three specimens, this year I obtained four specimens in the same locality in every case they were growing where *Nivalis* & *Triandrus* grew together and as far as I know no other species of *Narcissus* grows within several miles. The corona of this flower resembles *Nivalis* but the perianth segments are broader & longer than *Nivalis* and twisted & reflexed as in *Triandrus*.

N.º 7. Ajax found near Oporto flowering 13th February to 20th March, altitude 50 to 200 feet in deep sandy loam near streams; this is a large form of *Pseudo-Narcissus* and in Mr. Wolley Dod's opinion may be *Pseudo-Narcissus Major*.

N.º 8. Ajax found in same localities as the former but is a smaller form in every respect, I have received both of the above from Povia de Lanhozo about 2,000 feet altitude.

N.º 9. Ajax, var. *Bicolor*—from near Povia de Lanhozo and Penedo flowering 10th to 31st March, in deep sandy loam, altitude 1500 to 2500 feet, this is a very handsome variety and in cultivation may rival «*Empress*» the bulb is large and the leaves longer than those of any *Narcissus* I have ever seen—it seems to me to resemble the *Bicolor* in plate 1187 of *Botanical Magazine* but is larger, some roots sent to Mr. Wolley Dod flowered this year and he considers it to differ in many respects from the *Bicolor* recently found in the Pyrenees.

N.º 10. Ajax, a double form of above, I met with one plant of this growing near the single form.

N.º 11. Ajax variety «*Johnstoni*», grows near Oporto flowering 1st to 21st March in sandy loam near the banks of a stream, altitude about 300 feet.

I found this beautiful variety on 5th March 1886, it was fairly abundant in this locality but its range is very

limited and the meadows in which it grows are rapidly being ploughed up so it may soon disappear from this locality however I have received a specimen from Povoá de Lanhoso so possibly we may discover a new habitat.

DESCRIPTION

Height, 14 inches.

Bulb, ovate, dark brown and large.

Leaves, generally two, slightly concave, striated on the back with several ribs, colour sub-glaucous and erect.

Scape, hollow and sharply two edged, striated.

Flower, horizontal, perianth segments equal in length to corona 1 inch long, $\frac{3}{10}$ inch wide, lanceolated, acute.

Corona rather conical, slightly angular, irregularly and slightly crenated and lobed, the lobes not expanded as in *Pseudo-Narcissus* length of corona 1 inch, length of stamens $1\frac{2}{10}$ inch, length of style $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, stigma 3 lobed. Colour of corona and perianth pale sulphur slightly tinged with green on back of perianth (very similar in colour to *Corbularia Citrinus*).

N.º 12. Natural Hybrids. Both in 1885 and this year I found several plants of what appear to be *Pseudo-Narcissus* × *Triandrus* growing in same soil and situation as N.º 7. they differed considerably from each other; some having a short cup others a longer one, and two specimens had two flowers on each scape.

N.º 13. *Narcissus Cyclamineus* or *Henriquesi*, growing near Oporto in sandy loam on the banks of a stream, flowering 28th February to 10th March, altitude about 300 feet.

A flower of this rare plant was first shown to me by my friend Mr. Edwin Johnston and on visiting the locality I found a fairly abundant supply of plants though it appears to be confined to this locality. I sent specimens to Mr. Wolley Dod and Mr. Barr asking them to use their influence towards obtaining the name «*Henriquesi*» for this species, in honour of Professor Henriques of Coimbra, but it appears to have been described and figured, by Parkinson in his «*Theatrum Botanicum*» published in 1640 (vide Mr. Burbidge's article in the «*Gardener's Chronicle*» November 1885) under the name of «*Cyclamineus*», so the name

must remain in abeyance till the roots I am sending to England flower.

DESCRIPTION

Height 6 inches to 1 foot.

Bulb, ovate, size of a large bulb of *Triandrus*, white, Leaves, two or three, erect, concave, striated at the back and with two conspicuous ribs, colour deep shining green. Scape hollow, nearly cylindrical with two edges and slightly striated.

Flower rather cernuous, segments of Perianth rather shorter than corona, perfectly reflexed, length of segments $\frac{9}{10}$ inch, breadth $\frac{3}{10}$ inch. Corona, length 1 inch, sub-cylindrical slightly contracted in the middle, edge crenulated and slightly expanded.

Stamens slightly longer than style and three fourths length of corona, stigma nearly circular, indistinctly lobed as in *Pseudo-Narcissus*, colour of corona and perianth deep sulphur.

N. B. There is a much smaller form but this seems to be owing to soil and locality.

N.° 14. A double form of the above, I have only met with one specimen of this, growing in the same locality.

N.° 15. *N. Triandrus*, grows in many localities in North Portugal, flowering from 13th February to 15th May according to altitude which ranges from 50 feet to 3,600, in a rich soil composed of leaf mould and granite sand, the flower varies in colour from pure white to a creamy yellow and in the variety «Concolor» (N.° 16) it is of a rich yellow, I have seen as many as 7 flowers on a scape but 1 to 3 is more common, the form of the flower also varies considerably, the perianth segments are sometimes equal in length to the corona but generally they are longer, the variations in the length of the style are also remarkable, this appears to be a heterostyle plant.

N.° 16. *N. Triandrus* var. *Concolor*. This plant is found on mountains in Central Portugal. I have never seen it growing, but Professor Henriques has sent me specimens, it resembles the smaller forms of *Triandrus* but the flower is of a uniform rich yellow colour.

N.º 17. *N. Odorus* (?) grows at Melgaço, North Eastern Portugal in deep sandy loam about 500 feet above sea level, flowering in March, I found a few specimens of this plant in 1883 and have cultivated them in my garden, it is a small form and still undetermined.

N.º 18. *Narcissus Odorus* (?) flowering about middle to end of February near Povoá de Lanhozo, altitude about 2000 feet, in sandy loam. I found a few specimens on 12th March this year but the flowers were withered, all that I could observe was that it is a much larger form than N.º 17.

N.º 19. *Narcissus Juncifolius*. I have received specimens from Trancozo, eastern Portugal a flower sent to Mr. Barr in April 1885 was considered by him to be identical with *Juncifolius* found in the Pyrenées.

N.º 20. *Narcissus Jonquilla*, I have received specimens from South Eastern Portugal which seem to be this species.

N.º 21. *Narcissus Jonquilloides* (Wilkomm) specimens were sent to me from southern Portugal (Algarve) which I think are this species, but further observation is necessary, grows in deep red clay soil.

N.º 22. *Narcissus Tazetta* from southern Portugal growing in deep red clay near ditches which are dry in summer, altitude about 200 feet above sea-level flowering February & March, this is a fine form of *Papyraceus*, at Coimbra it was classified as *Pamizianus*, this point may be settled next season.

N.º 23. *Narcissus Tazetta*, growing near Povoá de Lanhozo, in sandy loam, altitude about 2000 feet, flowering about February, I found a few specimens of this last March but the flower having faded I could not determine it, the leaf and style of growing show it to differ from N.º 22.

N.º 24. *Narcissus Tazetta*, growing in a wood attached to my brother's garden at Oporto—this is a beautiful, very small form, we suppose it to have come originally from southern Portugal, Mr. Barr to whom I sent a flower thinks it is *N. Dubius* and it certainly resembles Mr. Burbidge's plate.

N.º 25. *Narcissus Niveus*. I have received specimens from serra d'Arrabida, south western Portugal, classified by Professor Henriques, but I have not yet seen the flower.

N.º 26. *Narcissus Serotinus*, I have also received one

or two specimens from southern Portugal but have not yet seen the flower.

SPECIES INQUIRENDA

N. Graellsii, this is said to grow in North Eastern Portugal near Bragança, I have not yet visited the locality.

N. Rupicola, Dito, dito.

N. Gaditans, said to grow in southern Portugal, I have never visited the locality.

N. Minutillorus, Dito, dito.

N. Cernuus, Link mentions a plant under this name, but does not give the locality and I am uncertain as to what plant he refers, probably some form of *Triandrus*.

N. Incomparabilis, Curtis in the Botanical Magazine vol. 4 says that roots of this plant were received from Spain and Portugal. I have never heard of it's appearance in this country, if it is really a natural hybrid between *Poeticus* × *Pseudo-Narcissus* it is not likely to appear, as I believe the former has never been met with in a wild state.

N. Trilobus, a plant exists in the Botanical Gardens at Coimbra, with this name, it was found in a wild state but the exact locality has been lost.

N. Moschatus. I hope to meet with this species in the mountains of North Eastern Portugal.