



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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GREEN SHEET

JUNE 2003 PLANT FORUM NOTES

In addition to the plants discussed, the following plants, described in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*, were also shown:

Buddleia crispa
Dendromecon harfordii
Dianella tasmanica
*Pachypodium lamerei**
Pelargonium odoratissimum
Romneya coulteri
Salvia canariensis
Salvia chamaedryoides
Salvia chiapensis
Salvia clevelandii 'Winnifred Gilman'
Salvia 'Indigo Spires'
Salvia involucrata
Salvia leucophylla
Salvia mexicana 'Limelight'
Salvia 'Waverly'
Tritelia laxa 'Queen Fabiola'

*Don Nelson, who brought in an inflorescence from this plant, noted that the flowers are described as fragrant in *Selected Plants*. However, the flowers on display had no scent.



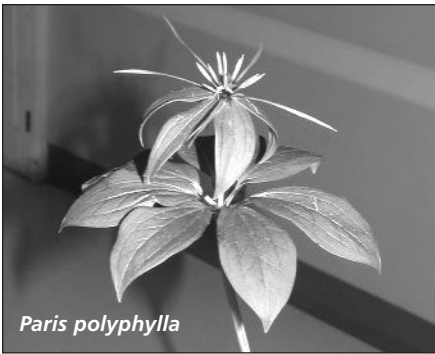
Calandrinia spectabilis

Thanks to all who brought in plants to the June Plant Forum. There was a great collection of salvias to complement the featured topic of the evening, along with a wide selection of other genera. Of particular note were several lovely spring bouquets. The collection brought in by Rick Dykzeul featured a listed 11 salvias, achillea, anigozanthos, pennisetum, aster, kniphofia, scabiosa, phlomis, *Verbena rigida*, and most likely another half dozen plants I couldn't distinguish. Since most of these plants produce multiple flower stalks, one can only assume that the garden they came from must be equally beautiful.

In writing up these notes, it became apparent that not all the cards accompanying the plants had been left on the tables to be collected. As a result, some plants brought in to the Forum have obviously been left out of this report. Please do not take any cards from the tables; the person responsible for writing up the Forum notes will need every single one of them!

Amomum compactum. (Zingiberaceae). Round Cardamon. Java. This is one of a large genus of aromatic, rhizomatous perennials that have been used for culinary and medicinal purposes. The plant is described as growing to 3' high with a reed-like stem and smooth, hairless leaves to 10" long. It blooms in summer with a 2-4" long terminal inflorescence of small yellow flowers with a purple-edged stripe. The seeds are the desired product for humans as well as the plant. However, the seeds lose their fragrance rapidly, so it is usually the pods that are sold. The plant displayed was described as being "only 4' high max" and never having produced a flower, while growing in semi-sun with average to ample water in Venice. I suspect that the greater than normal height, as well as the non-flowering, are due to a combination of not enough light or heat. As with other Zingiberaceae, giving the plant enough light, but keeping it from burning can be a problem. And the cooler climate of the coastal regions may keep this plant from blooming, as is also typical. (Deni Friese)

Calandrinia spectabilis. (Portulacaceae). No common name. Chile. This is a perennial species of a genus composed of both annuals and perennials. The spoon-shaped, evergreen leaves visually resemble those of a small sedum or echeveria. However, the inflorescence is considerably different from that of most succulents. There is a thin branching stalk almost 2' high, with each branch topped by a 2" wide, bright magenta to purple flower composed of 5-7 petals. The genus is widespread throughout the warmer regions of the world, but is not often seen in local gardens. Perennial species will most likely need protection from frost. This one is reputed to take 30°F. The plant was displayed in a container. However, Cathy says that the plant is much more compact, leafy and lush when grown in the ground. It takes full sun. This particular specimen was started from a cutting Cathy obtained from a



Paris polyphylla

The following plants were also shown but are not described in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*:

- Agastache foeniculum* 'Blue Spike'
- Agave americana*
- Callisia fragrans*
- Calochortus plummerae*
- Euphorbia guillemetii*
- Euphorbia rossii*
- Polyscias ficifolia*
- Rosa Mlle.* 'Cecile Brunner'
- Rosa* 'Sally Holmes'
- Salvia barrelieri*
- Salvia coccinea* 'Brenthurst Pink'
- Salvia costaricensis*
- Salvia greggii* 'Dark Dancer'
- Salvia forskahlei*
- Salvia interrupta*
- Salvia leucantha* 'Midnight'
- Salvia microphylla* 'Hot Lips'
- Senecio cineraria*
- T. flavum* ssp. *glaucum* (brought in as *T. glaucum speciosissimum*)

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained:

- the plant shown as *Buddleia alternifolia* was incorrectly labeled. This plant has alternate leaves, as the name states, and the plant shown had the typical opposite leaves of all other *Buddleia* species
- *Fuchsia argentina*
- *Polyscias* – with variegated leaves
- a very striking *Salvia* with fuzzy, very bright red flowers

garden she visited on a garden tour. For those of us who missed the tour, you should be able to find it for sale at Desert to Jungle Nursery, Montebello. (Cathy Ratner)

Dudleya albiflora. (Crassulaceae.) No common name. Mexico: Baja California Sur. This is a very attractive succulent that forms dense, branched clumps, 8–12" across, of white-leaved rosettes. The narrow, pointed leaves are in terminal rosettes and are up to 2" long. They can become red-tipped with age. It blooms in spring with white flowers. The plant requires full sun and good drainage, and because it is from the southern part of Baja, is likely to be more frost sensitive than most *Dudleya*. Tim has grown the specimen displayed in the same pot for eight or more years. (Tim Evans)

Paris polyphylla. (Liliaceae.) No common name. Himalaya. This is a rather odd-looking *Trillium* relative that is also a rhizomatous perennial. It produces a bare stem to 18" high in spring, topped with a ring (or perhaps two) of pointed oval leaves. The bloom appears above the leaves and consists of very narrow petals and a ring of stamens. The leaves stay green until the fall, when the whole plant dies to the ground. The plant is generally dormant until May. Bart has grown this plant in the same pot for three years. It is in full shade in winter and receives some filtered sun in spring and summer. The plant is kept moist, and is allowed to dry out a little between waterings. (Bart O'Brien)

Passiflora cumbalensis. (Passifloraceae.) Red Banana Passionfruit, Rosy Passionfruit. Colombia, Ecuador, Peru. This is another of Jorge's remarkable collection of passion flower vines. This species has a three-lobed leaf, but with nine botanical varieties, the lobes are not always the same shape. It blooms with pendulous pink flowers that have a 2–3" long tube, an equally wide pink corolla and yellow stamens. The tubular portion of the flowers was green in the plant displayed, but can also be bright pink to violet in color. The fruit is edible and is typically red, though it can be bright yellow. Like all passion vines, the plant requires ample water and is probably best in a frost-free environment. It is native to high altitude cloud forests. Attempts at fruit production in cultivation have not been very successful, but probably because of the interest in this plant for ornamental use and as a food crop, there is a great deal of information online. (Jorge Ochoa)

Salvia viscosa. (Lamiaceae) No common name. Yeo reports as Italy; Clebsch as Lebanon and Israel. Originally described in 1781 by Nicolaus Joseph von Jacquin. As our June speaker Betsy Clebsch notes in her latest book, "It is ironic that it has taken 200 years for a well-described plant that is easily grown to be discovered by gardeners." Forms a moderate basal clump; the leaves start out spoon-shaped and strongly aromatic, elongating and losing their scent with age. In summer intricate multibranched inflorescences rise 3' above the plant and spread 2' wide, with numerous very small, widely-spaced white and wine-red spotted flowers. Happy in half to a full day of sun, clay or ordinary garden soil, with light to moderate water. (Steve Gerischer)

— Edited by Joan Citron.

Salvia viscosa description by Chris Meyer. Photos by Pamela Shriver.

