

The Southern African Bulb Group

Newsletter No. 10

Spring 2008, published April 2008



If you have any difficulty reading this Newsletter, either on the computer screen or printed copy let me know at email: mick.reed@blueyonder.co.uk or by telephone to 01293 420975.

Spring meeting

Sunday 18th May 2008, Winchester, UK. See below for more information.

The Spring meeting of the Group will be on Sunday 18th May 2008, at Badger Farm Community Centre, Winchester, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are very pleased to welcome Rod & Rachel Saunders of [Silverhill Seeds](#), South Africa, each will give a talk. There will be other talks by members, plant sales, and tea, coffee and soup for refreshments. All who are interested in growing these plants will be welcome.

Directions to the meeting hall

- Directions by road: Leave the M3 at junction 11 and proceed towards Winchester. At the first roundabout follow the sign to Winchester. At the second roundabout take the second exit up the hill towards Badger Farm. At the third roundabout take the third exit to the superstore (not the second exit marked Badger Farm). Follow the road right round the edge of the car park until you see the doctor's surgery. Next to it is the Badger Farm Community Centre.
- The post code is SO22 4QB for those with satellite navigation.
- MAPS:
 - o [Map of the location](#), courtesy of Google Maps (you can scroll around, change scale, etc.)
 - o [Another map](#) which is more like a road atlas, thanks to Streetmap.co.uk (look for the orange arrow pointing to the meeting place)
 - o [A similar map at a smaller scale](#) showing the access roads from the M3

General Notes on the Germination of Old Bulb Seed

For a number of years I have kept a small seed bank in the freezer, where I store new seed awaiting the right sowing time, and spare seed from earlier sowings.

Last autumn I decided to check the contents, and discovered seed from as long ago as 1998. Instead of throwing it away, I scattered it in the grit on the top of the pots of mature bulbs of the same species.

The results have turned out to be very interesting. Of 17 species that germinated, 6 produced a mass of seedlings and 9 produced enough to be worthwhile. 2 species were sown in their own pots, one of which germinated well but later damped off. The second pot only produced 2 seedlings.

Amongst the genera included in this project are:

Gladiolus dalenii 1997 seed - few, *G. perneabilis* 2005 - few

Moraea macrocarpa 1998 seed - few, *M. villosa* 1998 - ++, *M. gigandra* 2000 - few

Geissorhiza monantha 2000 seed - ++, *G. radiata* 2001 - few

Calochortus greenei 2004 - +++, *C. howellii* 2004 - +++)

Aristea cantharophylla 2000 - +++, separate pot. (damped off)

Homeria (now *Moraea*) *framesii* 1998 - +++)

Thereianthus minutus 2001 - only 2, separate pot

As the seedlings grew on, they all thrived, with no sign of damping off or other problems.

Re-potting will now have to wait until the seedling bulbs are large enough to handle, but that may be an advantage, I am probably guilty of re-potting too frequently. Time and compost will also be saved!

Fresh seed of *Nerine filamentosa*, *platypetala*, *angulosa*, and *gracilis* was dropped into the main pots and quickly grew and flourished.

Seed collected from my own plants in 2007 - including *Calochortus* and *Narcissus* species - have all germinated like cress!

Spare seed of several more genera from 2006 was treated in the same way. The results have produced almost 100% germination.

I'm sure there is a good reason why seeds sown in this way do so well, so maybe someone with greater knowledge than me could shed some light on the subject.

It is obviously worth giving old seed a chance to grow, as it is a very easy way to increase stock without taking up extra space, (a problem becoming more acute every year!) Finally, in due course, I hope I will have plenty of spare bulbs and corms for sharing.



Homeria (now *Moraea*) *framesii* *Calochortus venustus* – red form

Narcissus triandrus

A NOTE ON GETHYLLIS

I've often encountered *Gethyllis* spp. in my wanderings through greater Namaqualand and thought I'd mention that they are by no means confined to a single habitat type. Even single species, or what I assume to be single species, can enjoy diverse niches. I've seen a tiny cobwebbed *Gethyllis* amongst small shale pebbles near Bulletrap, the famous bulb haven north of Springbok, but I've also seen it hiding in white quartz near Klipbok in the northeastern Richtersveld. These habitats differ in their rocky matrices and also in rainfall regimes, Bulletrap being much wetter. Moisture-loving species of *Monilaria* are found with them in both cases.

Gethyllis also enjoy deep sands. West of Clanwilliam they occupy drifts of eroded Table Mountain Sandstone, and I do mean occupy: those bulbs are massive. You will also find them in the saline quartz fields of the Knersvlakte (small cryptic spp.), in powdery shale near Steinkopf, and, ubiquitously, deep in the fissures of gneiss, well protected!

The most interesting species I've seen grew between gneiss boulders near Uilklip, south of Kliprand. High moisture levels can be guessed from the presence of a luxuriant *Satyrium* in the same area. The *Gethyllis* sp. struck me because its blackish, rather twisted, leaves had the texture of electrical tape, resembling the delightfully ridged *Ornithogalum scabrocostatum*.*

* By the way, in 2003 Russell Wagner and I saw *O. scabrocostatum* growing near Chabiessies (well south of Klipbok), right next to *O. unifoliatum*. The point is of interest both as regards the unrecorded distributions of these species and also with respect to their obvious link - the flowers are extremely similar and when they bloom together (as they always do here) these species fall into each other's arms, or at least their pollen does.

Steven Hammer

Further comment on: A view on cultivation of *Daubinya*, *Massonia*, *Polyxena* and *Whiteheadea*

I was surprised to read Gordon Summerfield's recommendation that one should keep winter growing South African bulbs at a pH of 5.0. I don't think I have ever encountered such a marked acid recommendation before. Maybe this is something you could put in the newsletter - ask others for comments / views ? Certainly mine are grown in a mixture of sand with a little JI2, and watered with chalky tap water - but then they don't perform that successfully!

Jon Evans, Email: jon.evans@dsl.pipex.com

Many thanks to John and Steven. Comments on articles always appreciated.

A Newly-Described Genus of South African Bulb – *Prototulbaghia* **Terry Smale**

The Leolo Mountains are located in Sekhukhuneland in the north-eastern part of South Africa. This is an area that has been recognised as having a rich flora with a high percentage of endemic species. The lowlands in the area are hot and dry but the mountains rise to 1932 metres and the summits can be quite moist and misty during the summer rainy season; the winters are dry and parched. The flora of the Leolo Mountains is threatened by overgrazing and open-cast mining. A floristic survey of the region has been conducted by Dr. Stefan Siebert and in 1999 he discovered a tiny member of the onion family (Alliaceae) in very wet seepage areas between sheets of exposed rock on the summit plateau of the mountains. This new discovery has been introduced into cultivation and mentioned in several publications [e.g. *Herbertia* (2002), **57**, 85-90]. In addition it has been made available through such companies as Penrock Seeds (Charles Craib). If you need to relate localities to this particular plant, then it is growing near Schoonoord and Maope.

Having been in cultivation for eight years, the plants have been investigated by Dr. Canio Vosa of Pisa, who also spends time working at Oxford University. Dr. Vosa has done a great amount of work on the genus *Tulbaghia* and it came as a surprise to me to discover that he described the widely-grown *T. cominsii* as recently as 1979. He has published a useful up-to-date key to the genus [*Caryologia* (2007) **60**, 69-72]. The flowers of *Tulbaghia*, have a corona around the mouth of the flower tube, in much the same way as a daffodil. The genus *Allium*, which has a few representatives in South Africa, lacks any such structure, although the two whorls of filaments are often different in structure. The Leolo Mountain plants have wide petaloid appendages on the outer three filaments that coalesce to form a sort of cylindrical pseudocorona in the centre of the flower. The chromosome complement resembles that of a particular group of *Tulbaghia*, with *T. galpinii* from that group having some gross morphological similarity. These observations have prompted Dr. Vosa to consider the likelihood that the new plant represents an early phase in the evolution of *Tulbaghia* from *Allium*. Therefore he has published the new monotypic genus *Prototulbaghia* for the Leolo species which has been christened *P. siebertii* [*Caryologia* (2007) **60**, 273-278] in honour of its discoverer.

The winter-dormant bulbs each produce 3-6 leaves that are up to 15cm long and 1.5mm wide. When they first emerge in spring, the leaves are in coils, but they then unfurl to just leave a hook at each tip. The plants grow in loose soil and if a finger is passed through a clump, the hooks catch and plants are pulled out of the soil. This might represent a method of vegetative distribution *via* small animals or birds. The flowers only last one day, but can be produced in succession right through the summer. Flower stalks are about as long as the leaves with 2-4

flowers on each. They are upwards-facing, widely bell-shaped, with petals about 4.5mm long. Flowers are white or pink-tinged when they first open in the morning and change to deep pink or magenta by the afternoon. The species might have a degree of self-fertility which would make distribution in cultivation relatively easy. I have the impression that it would make a useful miniature pot plant that might flower over a long season in the summer.

My thanks to Dr. Canio Vosa for supplying reprints of his papers.

Updated list of Suppliers of Southern African Bulbs

An updated list of sources is given below. Once again I would ask that if you have experience of other reliable sources please send details for inclusion in a future expanded list.

UK based suppliers

- **Jim & Jenny Archibald** (Bryn Collen, Ffostrasol, Llandysul, SA44 5SB, Wales, UK)
(Seed of selected species, catalogue online at <http://www.jjaseeds.com/>)
- **Great Western Gladiolus** Email: clutton.glads@btinternet.com Listing includes a number of South African taxa.
- **Monocot Nursery** (St Michaels, Littleton, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 6NT, UK) (Seed and bulbs of selected species)
- **Terry Smale** (28 St. Leonards Rd, Epsom Downs, Surrey, KT18 5RH, UK) An interesting selection of Southern African taxa offered by a member of this group - Catalogue online at <http://www.smale1.demon.co.uk/index.htm>
- **Springbank Nurseries** Nerines (Springbank Nursery, Winford Rd, Newchurch, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO360JX)

A considerable range of hybrids, and a few species, are listed in the catalogue.

South African suppliers

- **(Silverhill Seeds** PO Box 53108, Kenilworth, 7745, Cape Town, RSA)
(Extensive range of seed, catalogue online at www.silverhillseeds.co.za Please note that the paper catalogue has been continued after all, but the nursery is suspending sales during the mid winter months. The focus of the listings will, in future, place more emphasis on Western Cape taxa). The most recent catalogue was circulated in December 2007.
Website [.http://www.silverhillseeds.co.za/](http://www.silverhillseeds.co.za/)
- **Rust-en-Vrede Nursery** (PO Box 753, Brackenfell, 7561, RSA) (A very good list of seed and corms)
- **Gordon Summerfield** (PO Box 5150, Helderberg, Somerset West, 7135, RSA)
(A fine list of seed and corms, many with provenance data). Catalogue is available via Email as a Word attachment. The Email address is summerfields@telkomsa.net
- **African Bulbs** (P.O. Box 26, Napier 7270, RSA)
(Catalogue of selected Eastern Cape and Western Cape bulbs and seeds online at www.africanbulbs.com/ Formerly known as The Croft Wild Bulb Nursery) Our nursery has recently moved from Stutterheim, near the Amatola Mountains in the Eastern Cape, to Napier, <http://www.africanbulbs.com/>

a village between Caledon and Bredasdorp in the Western Cape.

- **Jim Duggan Nursery** <http://www.thebulbman.com>

USA suppliers

- **Telos Rare Bulbs** (P. O. Box 4147, Arcata, CA 95518, USA)

This US based nursery has recently advertised that it is resuming overseas shipments. The catalogue, which contains an extensive range of Oxalis, is on the web at <http://www.telosrarebulbs.com/index.html>

In addition to the above a number of society seed distribution schemes, including those of the International Bulb Society, the Indigenous Bulb Association of South Africa, the Alpine Garden Society and the North American Rock Garden Society can be productive sources of material.

Related web sites

- Amaryllidaceae.org (in French)
- [African Bulbs](http://www.africanbulbs.com) Rhoda and Cameron McMaster's Nursery www.africanbulbs.com
- [Audrey Cain](http://www.bulbweb.co.uk) A website of bulbs grown since 1989 www.bulbweb.co.uk
- [A-Z Photographic Database of Southern African Bulbous Plants](#)
- [IBSA](#) (Indigenous Bulb Association of South Africa, Inheemse Bolplant Vereniging van Suid-Afrika)
- [International Bulb Society](#)
- [Nerine & Amaryllid Society](#)
- [Pacific Bulb Society \(PBS\)](#)
- [Société Française des Iris et plantes Bulbeuses](#) (some of the pages are available in English)
- [Telos Rare Bulbs](#) (primarily a California nursery, but their web-site has names and pictures of many species)
- [Terry Smale's web site](#)
- [The African Garden](#) (culture, photography, identification, research, horticultural promotion and conservation of Southern African Bulbs and their hybrids, by David Fenwick) www.theafricangarden.com

If you know of any other Websites that would be useful to members please let me know and I will add them to our list and to the website

Mick Reed

6

Autumn 2007 meeting

The Autumn meeting of the SABG was held again at the village hall in Corfe Mullen, Dorset, on 23rd September 2007. The usual time was allowed for members to arrive, set up and admire demonstrations, etc.

Terry Smale then introduced Mike Salmon, of the Monocot Nursery in Clevedon, Avon (or Somerset if you prefer), to give a talk. He said that he had recently talked on North African Bulbs to the Hardy Plant Society, but was amused to be talking now on this topic to the *Southern* African Bulb Group. (We have broad interests!) Mike's informative talk is described in another section of this newsletter.

After lunch we had a business meeting, in which we discussed the organisation of the group and the roles of the Committee members. Volunteers were available for all the suggested jobs. A gap was identified in representation from further north, since meetings so far have all been in the South. A meeting somewhere like Milton Keynes would be a good idea if we had someone in that area to organise it.

There was some discussion about whether it was practicable to draw up a table of cultivation notes for the various genera, although Terry pointed out that species in some genera can't be treated alike. There was a discussion of whether and how this might be done on the SABG web site.

Mick Reed described the seed and bulb exchange which he had organised, and was more successful than he had expected. About a dozen people had supplied very well cleaned material and over 20 people had requested items. Most people seemed to want Massonias. The remaining material was sold for 20p per packet at the meeting. Mick said he was happy to continue to organise this in future. There was a discussion as to whether recipients should donate a small amount such as £1.

Links to the Alpine Garden Society were suggested, as many people are members. After some discussion it was generally felt that a formal affiliation was not appropriate. Web links to and from other organisations including the Hardy Bulb Society were also discussed.

After the hard work of the business meeting we relaxed with pictures displayed on the digital projector. These included *Albuca pendula*, or possibly an *Ornithogalum*, in the new Alpine House at Kew, *Amaryllis belladonna* in the walled garden at Wisley, some Babianas, Colchicums at Wisley, *Cyrtanthus epiphyticus* at Horsham Autumn Horticultural Show, *Dierama igneum*, which can be salmon-pink or orange, dark blue Geissorhizas from Wisley,

quite a few *Gladiolus* species, and so on through the alphabet. There were many more excellent pictures which stimulated some interesting discussions – unfortunately I can't produce a more detailed listing at the moment.

Richard White

Mike Salmon on North African Bulbs

Mike began with a geographical overview. The Middle Atlas has areas of grassland with scattered large cedar trees. An incredible range of bulbs can be seen in flower in Spring. Further south the High Atlas mountains rise up to around 14,000 feet, with skiing resorts but few roads. Lots of alpine plants and bulbs can be found. Even further south, the Anti-Atlas range has lots of succulent plants including Euphorbias, Senecios and stapeliads. To the south of that is the Sahara Desert.

Mike provided me with a list of the bulbous and tuberous-rooted plants shown in his slides, so I had no excuse to miss any out – you are about to read a lot of plant names, many of which I had not encountered before!

7

Autumn-flowering bulbs

He started his plant list in Autumn, the start of the bulb season in his view, with *Urginia maritima* in the High Atlas, followed by the two-foot-high *U. undulata* which has beautiful crimped leaf rosettes but undistinguished flowers, and is easy to grow in a cold greenhouse. *Biarum tenuifolium* is a foul-smelling aroid, but *B. dispar* is much nicer, although not hardy. *Mandragora autumnalis* can be found in cultivated areas of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Often white-flowered, it has long roots and needs a deep pot.

There are lots of Colchicums in North Africa, usually with smaller flowers than the European species. The ones Mike showed us were *Colchicum cupanii* from Tunisia, , the honey-scented *C. neapolitanum micranthemum* from the High Atlas which makes a nice pot plant flowering in early autumn, and *C. stevenii* which extends from Tunisia through Egypt into Jordan but is more temperamental, needing more desert-like conditions. The larger *C. algeriense* is hardy in the UK and makes a beautiful plant, some forms being a dark purple.

Merendera filifolia comes from Morocco. The corms of *Cyclamen rohlfsianum* can exceed twelve inches in diameter, the centre then dying out to form a sort of fairy ring. It comes from Tunisia and Libya, *C. africanum* and *C. somalense* being the only other African species. There are also two *Crocus* species in North Africa, one being *C. serotinus salzmannii*, which is hardy in southern England. It is now restricted to rocky outcrops because of extensive cultivation in the northern half of Morocco and Tunisia.

Scilla lingulata is a little gem, 2½ to 4" tall, in which unusually the top flowers open first. *Hannonia* is a monotypic genus, i.e. it has only one species, *H. hesperidum*. It is related to *Pancreatum*, and always has two flowers in each inflorescence. *Pancreatum foetidum* is fairly common, and might be hardy; it is quite spectacular and has a lovely scent, despite its name. *Vagaria olivieri* is the smallest of its genus, and again has two flowers on each stalk. Despite growing as far south as the south of the Anti-Atlas, it can be grown easily in a pot and makes a nice plant.

There are few irises in the region. *Iris serotina* has 3½" flowers on 12 to 15" stems in the autumn, its leaves appearing in spring, and is not easy to grow. Also autumn flowering is *Ranunculus bullatus*, which makes a nice pot-full in a cold greenhouse.

Narcissus

Then we moved on to the genus *Narcissus*, a favourite of Mike's. Despite what you might imagine, we are still dealing with autumn-flowering species. *Narcissus humilis*, which also grows in Spain and Portugal, doesn't look like a proper *Narcissus*, having no real trumpet visible, and doesn't flower easily in cultivation for some people. A better form for growing is *N. humilis mauretanicus*, because it is easier to flower and has up to five flowers per stem. *N. serotinus*, which is common in North Africa, is easy in a cold greenhouse; again, it has no real trumpet. *N. × perez-larae* is a hybrid between these two species, despite their differing chromosome numbers.

N. elegans does have a small trumpet, which turns from olive green to orange, contrasting with the white petals. It has just two leaves. *N. viridiflorus* has no leaves at all – the green flowers grow on stems which lengthen to three to four feet and carry out the photosynthesis the plant needs. There is a hybrid between the last two, *N. viridiflorus × elegans*, which – you've guessed it – has one leaf. Mike said so, so it must be true.

8

N. broussonetii is a real desert plant from southern Morocco. The outer bulb tunic layer doesn't rot away, but builds up to form an insulating jacket, apparently to protect the bulb from the hot sand. Its flower looks a bit like the cultivated variety "Paperwhite", but lacks a trumpet, having small scales at the base of the petals. *N. papyraceus* on the other hand comes from woodland in the border area of Morocco and Algeria and is easy to grow. *N. polyanthos* is related to the previous two species, with similar growth to *N. papyraceus* but is very local. All the previous species are white-flowered. As you go from eastern Algeria into Libya you start to encounter a yellow species, *N. bertolonii*, the origin of many cultivated forms. Further east (in Jordan) is *N. tazetta* with white petals and a yellow corona, which will increase rapidly in a cold greenhouse.

Spring-flowering bulbs

Moving on to spring-flowering *Narcissus* species, *N. watieri* from about 10,000 feet in the High Atlas can be quite difficult to grow, but is hardy in acid soil that never dries out. It is the most "crystalline" of the white-petalled species, and has a yellow counterpart on limestone soil, *N. marvieri*, which may be just a variety, but both are worth trying to grow.

Mike described *N. atlanticus* as his "pride and joy". It was originally discovered in 1936 and one capsule of seeds was distributed to a couple of people, but the original publication which named and described it did not say where it was found. Mike found it growing in a small patch of limestone rock and reintroduced it into cultivation from a known location.

From Morocco, including the Rif mountains, come *N. cantabricus eualbidus* and *N. romieuxii riffanus*, whose flowers face upwards despite being related to *N. bulbocodium*. *N. albidus foliosus* has, as the name suggests, lots of leaves and few flowers, which are a milky white rather than the crystalline white of the *cantabricus* group. *N. zaianicus* grows in pockets of soil in limestone and has flared trumpets. *N. romieuxii* is very rare in the wild because of human activities of deforestation. There are lots of hybrids *N. romieuxii × albidus* which are worth growing, but the true species *N. albidus albidus* from the Agadir end of the Atlas is nicer and has showy flowers two to three inches across in the collection SF110. *N. albidus occidentalis* grows close to the sea on white marble outcrops.

N. cantabricus is a small easy-to-grow crystalline white from Tunisia, flowering in very early spring. There are forms with two leaves or one, sometimes even with none at all. *N.*

cantabricus petunioides is a choice form with almost flat disc-shaped flowers, while *N. cantabricus laciniatus* has “ragged” flowers.

Returning to yellow species, *N. bulbocodium genuinus* is about 9 or 10" tall, confined to acid soil, and goes south of the Anti-Atlas into the Sahara. It sets seed freely in cultivation.

Another *bulbocodium*, from high altitudes in the High Atlas, is the hardy *N. mairei* with protruding stamens and style. The last *Narcissus* Mike showed us was *N. albidus tananicus* which has long white trumpets 3 to 3½" long and grows in natural basins full of tufa.

Leucoium (also known as *Leucojum*) is related to *Narcissus*, however. *L. tingitanum* is easy to grow outdoors and naturalises from seed.

Scilla peruviana doesn't come from Peru, and has some named forms, all perfectly hardy, including *S. gatefossei* which is a nice compact form with a 4" ball of flowers. *S. mauretunica* from central Morocco is also hardy and increases freely.

Androcymbium gramineum is a real desert plant from south of the High Atlas, as is *A. saharae* with pink flowers which grows right into the Sahara. *A. punicum* comes from Tunisia and is the easiest of its genus to grow, often found in hollows which fill up with water in the wet season.

Eminium spiculatum is in the Arum family and has divided leaves, but spotted as is common with Arums. In the same family is *Arisarum vulgare*, which smells of wet fish and is about 4"; there are several varieties. In *A. simmorhinum* the flower shape and position varies, sometimes they lie flat on the ground.

9

Scorzonera religiosa is getting scarce because it's edible. It has striking flowers, seeds readily and can be propagated by dividing the tubers. *Ranunculus caladrinioides* is common in the High Atlas as a “snow melt” flower. There are deep pink and whitish forms. *Asphodelus acaulis* is a little pink flowered gem, the only dwarf species in its genus, and can be grown in a cold greenhouse. *Crocus carpetanus* is a spring-flowering crocus, but is not especially attractive.

There are over 20 *Romulea* species in North Africa. *R. ramiflora* has very prolific purple flowers, *R. ligustica* makes a very neat little plant, and *R. clusiana*, which also occurs in Sicily, is the most widely grown, and has purple flowers with white markings and yellow centres.

Dipcadi serotinum is a strange plant, looking like an olive-green bluebell, growing in sand. Salmon and white forms also occur, and its seeds germinate like cress.

Mike showed a couple of tulips, the yellow *Tulipa australis* which also grows in southern Europe, and *T. primulina*, which may now be extinct in the wild because of cereal cultivation in its former habitat; it still exists in cultivation – a couple of people in the audience said they had it.

Gynandriris is a genus which Mike described as the forerunner of the *Moraeas*. He showed slides of *G. sisyrinchium*, which has various forms, and *G. purpurea*.

Mike finished his talk with a selection of species of *Iris*. *I. tingitana* is now rare in the wild, but the variety *fontanesii* is surviving in rocky areas. It is easy to grow and hardy outside or in a cold greenhouse. *I. juncea* is a yellow-orange colour and also grows well outside. *I. filifolia* is a lowland plant with slender foliage which is nice to grow. *I. masia* from Egypt and the Sinai has nasty spines and, as he described it, grows a corm on top of a bulb on top of a tuber. *I. planifolia*, formerly known as *alata*, has various forms in shades of blue and lilac, including *micrantha* which has small flowers but makes a delightful 4" plant, and a form from Tunisia with flowers up to 6" across. *I. unguicularis*, formerly known as *stylosa*, occurs from Morocco to Libya in various forms and also in Southern Europe across to the Black Sea. It is perfectly hardy, and has various named cultivars which flower from autumn to spring. Finally, *I.*

albicans is found all over North Africa, often planted in Islamic cemeteries, and is also hardy in the UK.

Mike answered a few questions at the end of his talk. Most bulbs grow at quite a shallow depth, but some desert *Pancratium* bulbs are 18" to two feet down. As a general rule, whenever a species occurs in both Iberia and North Africa, the forms from North Africa are easier to grow and flower better. Terry thanked Mike for his informative talk and excellent slides.

Richard White

AUTUMN MEETING 2008

The venue and programme for this meeting will be forwarded to Members as soon as we have the details finalised.