

*sana*. Mr. Freeman's observations on this species near the type locality, supported by an examination of the type (naked rocky hills on the Fourche south of Little Rock, Arkansas, *George Engelmann 182*, May, 1837; Mo, no. 148399) and other collections from the general area, indicate that the real *Y. arkansana* is taller-growing and has softer, longer, and often wider leaves than does the common plant of northern Texas going by that name. Unfortunately all but two of the Arkansas specimens seen consisted of leaves only. Since considerable variation exists in the Texas plants, the name *arkansana* is provisionally retained for them.

## Agave lata, a New Species from North Texas and Oklahoma

Lloyd H. Shinnery

AGAVE (subg. *Manfreda*) *lata* Shinnery, sp. nov. *A. virginicae* affinis, differt foliis brevioribus latioribus (10-18 cm. longis, 2-7 cm. latis), scapo crassiore, floribus longioribus (2.6-3.5 cm. longis, ovario incluso), antheris grandioribus (13-15 mm. longis).

Perennial from a pithy corm 2-3.5 cm. long, 1-2 cm. thick, with numerous thick, fleshy-fibrous roots from the lower part. Leaves bluish gray-green, herbaceous, fleshy, mostly basal and rather few (4-10), elliptic or broadly lanceolate, 10-18 cm. long by (2-)3-7 cm. wide, short-acuminate, glabrous, spinulose-serrulate, rather stiffly ascending, deeply concave, of nearly uniform thickness. Leafy bracts of scape narrowly ovate-lanceolate or triangular-lanceolate, clasping by a very asymmetrical base, the upper much reduced, with stiff purplish tips, those at base of inflorescence 1.1-1.8 cm. long. Scape 0.6-1.1 m. high, erect, glabrous, rather stout (6-10 mm. thick near base, 3-5 mm. at base of inflorescence); inflorescence a spike-like raceme occupying the terminal  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{6}$  of the scape before fruit begins to form, the flowers rather crowded (4-17 mm. apart). Pedicels shorter than their subtending bracts. Flowers with strong spicy-sweet scent. Perianth (including the inferior ovary) 2.6-3.5 cm. long (ovary 7-8 mm., perianth above 1.9-2.7 cm.), lobes lanceolate, 5-7 mm. long, 2.5-3 mm. wide at base; ovary green or yellowish; perianth proper yellowish, heavily flecked or suffused with red-brown upward, the tip wholly red-brown.

Filaments strongly clavate, flattened, ultimately exerted 1.5-2.5 cm. beyond the perianth, attached about 5 mm. above base of perianth tube; anthers linear, 1.3-1.5 cm. long, deciduous from the persistent filaments. Stigma at first trigonous-clavate, 1-2 mm. in diameter, becoming shallowly 3-lobed. Mature fruit not seen. Immature capsule oblong- or ovoid-globose, glabrous, about 1.5 cm. long exclusive of the abrupt neck-like base about 2 mm. long, crowned by the persistent perianth. TYPE: 4.7 miles south of Sherman, Grayson Co., Texas, *Howell V. Daly 61*, June 15, 1951 (in Herb. Southern Methodist University). "Upland prairie, blackland clay; locally abundant. Plants up to 1 m. high; flowers with heavy spicy lilac odor; tepals, filaments and lower style heavily flecked reddish brown on yellowish ground; anthers yellow, flecked lighter reddish brown; stigma yellowish white; bract-tips and s. side of scape reddish brown. Bees attracted." Known also from three collections made in OKLAHOMA. MUSKOGEE Co.: stony slope in open oak-hickory woods 3 miles southeast of Braggs, *U. T. Waterfall 9607*, July 11, 1950. Oak-hickory forest 3½ miles southeast of Braggs, *Shem M. Sooter 155*, July 14, 1950. PONTOTOC Co.: openings in oak-hickory woods about 0.5 mile south of East Central State College campus, Ada, *G. Thomas Robbins 3094*, June 15, 1948. (All three collections in S.M.U. Herbarium.)

On April 29, 1951, I saw numerous rosettes of the new species at the type locality, associated with *Sisyrinchium albidum* Raf., *Physalis pumila* Nutt., *Baptisia minor* Lehm., *Delphinium virescens* Nutt., and rosettes of *Cirsium terrae-nigrae* Shinnery, in an apparently undisturbed upland prairie on the Austin Chalk formation. In appearance and habitat, the plants were quite different from *A. virginica* L., which I had collected the preceding year in Alabama and Louisiana; the leaf shape was much too short and broad for the endemic *A. maculosa* Hook. of southern Texas. On May 13 a few scapes were beginning to appear. On June 29, a third visit was made, in hopes of obtaining fruits, but only withered flowers could be found. Three plants collected by Mr. Daly, and the three Oklahoma specimens cited above, show the following differences between *Agave lata* and its nearest relative, *A. virginica* (characteristics of the latter taken from seven Texas and four Southeastern collections).

Leaves 12-18 cm. long, (2-)3-7 cm. wide; scape 6-10 mm. thick near base, 3-5 mm. at base of inflorescence; perianth (including ovary)

- 2.6-3.5 cm. long, lobes 2.5-3 mm. wide at base; anthers 1.3-1.5 cm. long; flowering mid June-mid July; oak woods and prairies, east-central Oklahoma to adjacent Texas.....*A. lata*
- Leaves (12-)15-30 cm. long, 1-4.5 cm. wide; scape 4-7 mm. thick near base, 1.5-3.5 mm. at base of inflorescence; perianth (including ovary) 2-2.3 cm. long, lobes 1.5 mm. wide at base; anthers 0.8-1 cm. long; flowering mid July-mid August; pine woods, eastern Texas, eastward in various habitats to the Atlantic.....*A. virginica*

## The North Texas Species of *Mirabilis* (Nyctaginaceae)

Lloyd H. Shinnery

Most of the wild four-o'clocks of north Texas were treated by Standley under *Allionia* (1909, 1918). The adoption of *Allionia* as a *nomen conservandum* for those plants often listed as *Wedelia* or *Wedeliella* (cf. International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, unofficial edition, Brittonia 6: 61, 1947) would require a number of transfers to *Oxybaphus*, most of which were early made by Weatherby (1913). In 1931, however, Standley concluded, on the basis of intermediates among the South American representatives, that *Oxybaphus* (*Allionia* of authors, not of Linnaeus as typified in the International Rules) and several allied genera should be merged with *Mirabilis*, and made numerous transfers to that genus. This broader treatment of *Mirabilis* is followed in Fernald's eighth edition of *Gray's Manual* (1950); and although the two groups of species represented in north Texas are quite distinct, they may satisfactorily be treated as subgenera, in accordance with Standley's later estimate. Standley's treatment of the species is not altogether satisfactory, owing in part to reliance on incomplete herbarium specimens (largely unavoidable at the time he wrote), and in part to the extreme seasonal, genetic, and environmental polymorphism of most of the species.<sup>1</sup> Often different forms of

<sup>1</sup>As an illustration of another sort of difficulty in the way of correctly naming species of *Mirabilis*, the snarled synonymy of a species of west Texas and adjacent Mexico may be given. *MIRABILIS CILIATA* Standley, Field Mus. Publ. Bot. Ser. 8: 306. 1931. *Allionia ciliata* Standley, Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb. 12: 345. *Allionia deltoidea* Standley, l.c. 13: 405. 1911. (Placed under synonymy under the preceding by Standley, N. Amer. Fl. 21: 229. 1918.) *Oxybaphus ciliatifolius* Weatherby, Proc. Amer. Acad. 49: 492. 1913. *Mirabilis ciliatifolia* (Weatherby) Standley, Field Mus. Publ. Bot. Ser. 11: 154. 1936. — *Oxybaphus ciliatifolius* Weatherby was published as a *nomen novum* for *Allionia ciliata* Standley, not *Oxybaphus ciliatus* Philippi ex Meigen. But *Oxybaphus ciliatifolius* Philippi was never validly published. It was merely listed as a synonym of *Mirabilis ciliata* (Philippi) Meigen, Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 17: 231. 1893, which itself was a *nomen nudum*. Consequently neither of these names has any claim to consideration under the rules now in force (cf. Art. 60). Both *Oxybaphus ciliatifolius* and *Mirabilis ciliatifolia* are therefore superfluous, and Standley's 1931 combination, *Mirabilis ciliata*, is valid and correct. Even if Meigen had validly published his *Mirabilis ciliata*, the next available epithet for the North American species would be *deltoidea*, if Standley was correct in making *Allionia deltoidea* a synonym of *A. ciliata*. This is a rare instance of two authorities joining to "correct" an already correct name into an incorrect one! *Mirabilis* is surely one of the most troublesome of Southwestern genera, in nomenclature and taxonomy both.