

The Southern African Bulb Group

Newsletter No. 13

Spring 2009, published February 2009



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 22nd March 2009, Winchester, UK. See below for more information.

The Autumn meeting of the Group will be on Sunday 26th October 2008, at Badger Farm Community Centre, Winchester, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

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

AGENDA for 22nd March 2009 Meeting

The doors will open at 10.00 for 10.30am start. Plants will be for sale and also tea and coffee will be available.

10.45am Chairman's welcome

10.55am Mick Reed. A short report on the Seed and Bulb exchange

11.00am Brian Mathew 'South African Bulbs and Curtis's Botanical Magazine'

12.30 – 2.00pm Lunch break

2.00pm David Victor reporting on his recent trip to Eastern Cape

3.00pm Slides and digital Photographs from Members of the Group.

4.30 – 5.00 Clearing the hall

Do bring along your slides and CD's of your plants to show to Members. Also bring along any surplus seeds and bulbs to sell (Bulbs in pots use the double label system)

The Group recommend 75% to the grower and 25% to the Group. There will be some seeds and bulbs from the Seed and Bulb exchange. Seeds will be 30p per packet with all the money going to the Group. Un-potted bulbs will be priced at 50p per packet. Bulbs that I have had to pot will be priced separately and 75% will go to the Group.

Do bring along any plants you have in flower to display for members to see.

Meeting at Winchester on 26th October, 2008

Reporter - Terry Smale

The meeting was attended by 36 people. In the morning we were entertained to a well-researched talk on the genus *Scadoxus* by Jonathan Hutchinson from RHS Rosemore. Jonathan has been a National Collection holder of the genus since 2004 and is still seeking live material of a couple of rare taxa. In the afternoon, various members gave short presentations based on live plants or photographs. There was a short business discussion and it was agreed by the members that a fee, probably £3, be charged for attending meetings. The aim is to make meetings self-financing and not eat into capital provided by the many

members whose location means that they can not get to meetings. On this occasion, plant and seed sales covered a substantial proportion of the meeting costs, but this would not be so at spring meetings.

Scadoxus presentation by Jonathan Hutchinson

Apart from *S. multiflorus* ssp. *multiflorus*, there are probably no scadoxus in the general horticultural trade. *S. puniceus*, *membranaceus* and *multiflorus* ssp. *katharinae* are sometimes available from specialist sources, but the remainder have been very difficult to acquire. Some have been given to him by SABG members and a few others have involved protracted negotiations with botanic gardens. In the wild, *S. puniceus* and *multiflorus* have a very wide distribution and are consequently variable. Four taxa are narrow endemics, but can still show variation. Many *Scadoxus* species originate from relatively tropical areas and as a broad generalisation, it is probably best to grow members of the genus at somewhat higher temperatures than most South African bulbs. A winter minimum of 10°C is to be recommended. Many species are forest-dwellers and some shade might be necessary. Popular literature on the genus is sparse, but Jonathan has done much delving into the botanical literature to find information.

S. multiflorus ssp. *multiflorus* (northern Botswana to East Africa and Arabia)
Jonathan, in common with many growers, finds this the most difficult species to maintain in cultivation, at least in the form distributed in large numbers from Holland. These are probably produced in the tropics and are exported with all the storage roots chopped away from the rhizome (note that scadoxus do not have true bulbs). When potted, they produce the familiar large red umbels of starry flowers and the leaves follow afterwards. The plants usually die in their first winter and it is likely that they need very high winter temperatures. However, with such a wide distribution, plants from other sources could be better for cultivation. Material collected by John Grimshaw on Mt. Kilimanjaro does persist in cultivation.

S. multiflorus ssp. *katharinae* (Swaziland, Eastern Cape and Kwazulu Natal)
The specific name is often misspelled with an “e” in the centre. The SABG Membership Secretary, Audrey Cain, told us that it was named for her Great Grandmother, Katharine Saunders, and should certainly be spelled with the “a”. This subspecies is evergreen if kept sufficiently warm during the winter and it flowers with the leaves. It forms a more obvious pseudostem (a structure that looks like a stem but is formed of clasping leaf bases) than the type subspecies but has similar spectacular bright red flowers

S. multiflorus ssp. *longitubus* (Guinea to Ghana, lowland rain forest)
This appears to be a very obscure subspecies.

S. puniceus (Eastern Cape, southern Botswana and disjunct populations in Tanzania and Ethiopia)

This is an incredibly variable species which can be evergreen or deciduous. The leaf shape varies, but leaf bases always form a pseudostem which is normally spotted. The cluster of flowers has insignificant petals and the colourful filaments are a more obvious feature. The flowers are constrained in

the centre of a bowl made up from the bracts which are often the most obvious feature of the inflorescence. Bracts and flowers are usually of different colours and in almost any combination of greens, browns, purples and reds. John Grimshaw found a form growing epiphytically in Tanzania and this is the exception in having extremely attractive flowers which are uniformly bright red.

S. membranaceus (Eastern Cape coast and Kwazulu Natal)

This has rather similar flowers to *S. puniceus* with very large bracts. However, it can be distinguished from that species by not forming pseudostems, the leaves tend to radiate directly from the rhizome. Even though it is rather localised in the wild, there are large and dwarf forms in cultivation. Jonathan has seen this growing in a mixture of stones and leaf litter on rocky banks in the Eastern Cape. Therefore it is not surprising that it requires good drainage in cultivation.

S. cinnabarinus (West Africa to Angola and Uganda)

This was well-known in the 19th century stove houses, but is now very rare in cultivation. It is grown at Kew and it likes moisture and warmth. In appearance, it is rather similar to *S. multiflorus* ssp. *katharinae*. That species has flower scapes which develop alongside the leaves, whereas *S. cinnabarinus* has scapes that come up the middle of the shoot.

S. pseudocaulus (West Africa to Angola and Uganda)

There are two subspecies: the type and ssp. *erumpens*. However, there is hardly any material of either subspecies in cultivation and they remain obscure plants.

S. pole-evansii (Inyanga mountains of Zimbabwe)

This is a relatively recent discovery, being described in 1965. It is slowly entering cultivation and its wet forest habitat might give clues to cultivation requirements. The photograph showed an extremely attractive inflorescence in which the flower petals were well-developed and quite broad. Thus it is rather different to the usual concept of scadoxus.

S. cyrtanthiflorus (Ruwenzori Mountains of Uganda)

The flower form of this species was another surprise for the audience and it really lives up to its specific name. The flowers in the umbel are pendant with long green tubes and broad red petals, thus very similar to the likes of *Cyrtanthus herrei*. Jonathan was given an offset of the species about seven years ago and it has recently flowered for the first time. The flowers had just faded on the plant displayed by him, but one could see that it had a very stout peduncle and that the inflorescent had been substantial. One offset was just forming, so propagation will be slow.

S. nutans (south-west Ethiopia)

This is the second species with pendant flowers, but in this case the flower stem has a U-bend at the top and the whole flower umbel is pointing downwards. The plants tend to be stoloniferous in new shoot production. Jonathan intends to track this species down in Ethiopia next February in the company of a local botanist.

S. longifolius (West Africa to Angola and Uganda)

Another obscure species.

Afternoon Discussions

Various members presented live plants and pictures that formed the focus of discussions among the audience. This was a very successful format in that there was a great degree of interactivity. Plants discussed included *Cyrtanthus elatus* x *falcatus* (a hybrid of two species that normally flower 4 – 5 months apart), *Lachenalia bulbifera* (a species from the sandveld in SA that is the first lachenalia to flower), *L. pusilla* (another early lachenalia that has leaves which can be narrow or wide, plain or spotted), *Stenoglottis longifolia* (Eastern Cape terrestrial orchid with purple flowers, tuberous roots and winter-deciduous leaves, that is easy to grow), *Nerine pudica* (winter-growing species that is rare in the wild and not very common in cultivation – material distributed by Smale under this name is actually *N. humilis*) and *Syringodea longituba* (close *Crocus* relative that exhibits difficulties in seed germination). As one might expect at this time of year, various amaryllids and *Polyxena*, *Massonia* and *Daubenya* were also viewed and discussed.

THE GENUS CLIVIA (Amaryllidaceae).

The genus consists of 6 species, one with outward facing flowers which is the widely known *Clivia miniata*. The remaining five species all have pendulous funnel shaped flowers and are mostly only found in specialist collections. In habitat, the genus is restricted to South Africa, and usually grows on the floor of the forests. During the last decade, to generate further commercial interest, considerable effort has been made to cross *Clivia miniata* with some of the pendulous species, usually *Clivia caulescens*. The resulting hybrids have more open funnel shaped flowers in a wide range of colours, often with contrasting colours on the outside and inside of the flower.

The first *Clivia* to be discovered was the pendulous species *Clivia nobilis* which was named in 1823. It took its name from Lady Clive, a renowned beauty of the time and later to be the Duchess of Northumberland.

Clivia miniata, by far the most spectacular species of the genus was very popular by the late Victorian period and selected clones were offered widely across Europe. Its popularity was probably due to its ease of culture and being virtually indestructible. That was until the advent of central heating, the very dry atmosphere that it produces is guaranteed to initiate the terminal decline of most plants that take up permanent residence in the same room. *Clivia* are real survivors, in habitat they can exist as epiphytes if need be. They do not have a bulb as such, but store nutrition in long, fat fleshy roots. These roots are frequently replaced, and even if they all rot due to mistreatment, a new set will emerge from the basal plate in a few months. There is never any need to throw a plant away because the roots have all rotted off!

Whereas *Clivia miniata* was widely grown and selectively bred in Europe from late Victorian times to the Second World War, on the wide commercial front in Europe, it now tends to be treated as just another house plant. In every other continent, *Clivia miniata* has enjoyed considerable popularity and hype over the last couple of decades.

At this stage, it should be noted that no authoritative monograph has ever been written on the Genus *Clivia*, let alone a recent revision of the genus which is long overdue.

CLIVIA MINIATA

This species is grown the world over, both as a house plant and in frost free climates as a border plant. In South Africa it is sometimes cut down by frost and nearly always manages to recover, but there is no doubt whatsoever that it would not be able to survive a British winter outside.

Its ease of growth and that with which it can be grown from seed have contributed greatly to its popularity. A large flower head can produce a dozen seed pods, each with as many individual seeds. This means virtually every breeder has far more seed than they can possibly use, and it is relatively easy and cheap to obtain seed representative of the current state of development of the plant. Three or four years further on, the enthusiastic grower can, with luck be competing on level terms with professional breeders of the plant. And there are only very few plants where that situation can exist. The result is that *Clivia* societies are widespread from South Africa to China and from the USA to Japan. The only continent that does not seem to have any societies devoted entirely to furthering the culture of *Clivia* is Europe. China saw a *Clivia* bubble in the 1980s every bit as extreme as the Tulip bubble that swept Holland in the 1630s when fortunes were made and lost in trading Tulips. In both China and Japan, *Clivia miniata* is grown primarily for its leaf and plant form. The flowers matter relatively little and the proportions of the leaf and the symmetry of the plant are the major consideration. Plants with variegated leaves were the most desired, particularly if there was a bit of red in addition to the white or cream in the variegation. Most of the desirable patterns of variegation are given a specific name. The leaves are much shorter and broader, up to 15 cm. wide, than those of the *Clivia* we know in Europe. Whatever else, it does mean that a very valuable and expensive plant can be enjoyed fully for 52 weeks in the year rather than just 3 or so!

Current development of *Clivia miniata* has resulted in the flowers having a colour range from almost white through to dark red, encompassing yellow, peach, pink, green and orange on the way. The pastel colours are currently those most in demand. Smaller plants for growing on windowsills have been developed as have plants called "Twins" which carry two flower stems at the same time. Add to that the crosses of *Clivia miniata* with the pendulous species and there is an extensive range of plants to maintain a very widely based interest.

A collection of *Clivia* can be started by visiting a few large garden centres early in the year and looking out for benches of *Clivia miniata*, the plants are usually in bud as they are sold before they come into flower. There are probably three main rules to observe when buying a plant:

- 1) Choose a plant from stock that is offered at a comparatively high price, probably upwards of about £7 – 00 or £8 – 00. All the plants have been produced at a small fraction of the selling price which has to include at least

two large mark-ups, transport from mainland Europe and VAT. Consequently there just is not enough in a cheap price to enable a grower to produce a really good plant.

2) Choose a plant with good broad leaves in a neat fan shape. Plants with untidy leaves coming out at all angles tend to have untidy flowers. Plants with broad leaves usually have flowers with wide overlapping petals which look much better than narrow petals with gaps between them. If, much against the odds, there is a plant with attractive open flowers, then that is obviously the plant to go for.

3) Since it is virtually certain that the plant will have come from Belgium, Holland or Denmark, it is even more certain that it will be growing in some sort of foul peat substitute in a pot that is much too small for it, sustained only by a pitifully small amount of controlled release fertiliser. After giving the plant a few weeks to settle into its new conditions, it will need to be potted on in a well drained growing medium, some suggestions are described under the heading "Cultivation".

A search of the internet will provide a great many sources of seed, and a start can be made in laying the foundations of a very worthwhile collection. The seed takes 3 – 4 years to produce a flowering size plant. Plants with variegated leaves usually take longer as they mature somewhat more slowly. Plants that have heavily variegated leaves can become very chlorotic and go into a terminal decline. Plants with "pinstripe" leaf variegation produce the best results in breeding variegated leaf *Clivia miniata*. The variegated leaf *Clivia miniata* is called *Clivia miniata striata*. The variegated leaf characteristic is inherited [1.Clivia miniata striata.jpg](#) from the seed parent alone and growers breeding *Clivia miniata striata* have a better chance of predicting what they are going to see in the seedling. However, in most cases a proportion of the seedlings, often around half have plain leaves. Fig.1 shows a variegated leaf *C.miniata* with red flowers.

A good *Clivia miniata* plant will have a flower as near to football shaped as possible, and [2.Clivia miniata.jpg](#) carried on a strong stem well above the leaves, a typical example is shown in Fig.2. Peach coloured *C.miniata* flowers are shown in Fig.3. The individual flowers, usually 7 - 10 cm. across will probably be widely trumpet shaped and a strongly coloured orange or red. These plants are the result of many generation of selective breeding in Europe. Plants obtained from habitat in South Africa usually have much narrower leaves which nearly always stick out in various angles and look somewhat untidy. The European plants tend to be grown as formal plants, and if grown in a conservatory or greenhouse have to earn their keep as an attractive foliage plant when not in flower, and they do this well with neat fan shaped dark green leaves. If seed is produced, the seed head can add a lot to the appearance of the plant. The seed pods when ripe are either bright red or bright yellow depending on whether the flowers are red or yellow. It should be noted that the seed pods are poisonous.

PENDULOUS CLIVIA.

Clivia nobilis. This is by far the slowest growing species as it takes about 7 years from seed to flower. It is a tidy looking plant with leaves in a neat fan

shape, and often with a pale centre line running along their length. The leaves are much stiffer and more leathery than those of other species, and often have a serrated edge. Additionally, the ends of the leaves are usually truncated, and in some plants has bite taken out of the end. The plant can easily be identified by feeling the leaves. In habitat, the plants are sometimes found in coastal scrubland as well on the forest floor.

This species has a flower head of up to 60 individual funnel shaped flowers. The flowers are orange or red with a green tip. The flowers tend to be 3 to 4 cm. long and the flower head can be up to 10cm.across. Both the plant and the flower head are very neatly arranged, and it is surprising that it is not seen more often in bulb collections as it is most certainly worth a place in any collection of either South African bulbs or Amaryllidaceae. This may be due to it being fairly scarce in cultivation as few bulb collectors have the patience to grow it from seed although flowering size plants are reasonably generous with offsets. Fig.4 shows the flower head from a very nice form of *C.nobilis*.

Clivia Gardenii and *Clivia robusta*. *Clivia Gardenii* was named after Captain Garden _who discovered the plant in 18 . A large form up to about 1.8m.tall, known as the Swamp *Clivia* was recently thought by some to be a separate species and given the name *Clivia robusta*. However there is a body of opinion that thinks it is no more than a form of *Gardenii* and will be taken back into that species. Both are often found in damp situations, and like rather more watering than the other species. Both species have narrow funnel shaped pendulous flowers about 3 to 5 cm. long, usually orange with a very distinct green tip. The flowers of both species can range from yellow, pale pink, various shades of orange to red – always with the green ring at the end. The flower heads of *Clivia robusta* tend to be much larger than those of *Gardenii*, the former often having 40 or more flowers in a head while the latter seldom has as many as 20. *Gardenii* has long narrow leaves, pointed at the ends and arranged neatly, while *robusta* lives up to its name with robust wide leaves coming out of a substantial base.

Clivia caulescens. This species is not unlike *C.Gardenii*, although the leaves are often a bit wider and the plants larger overall. Plants that are a few years into flowering size have a thick stem with plenty of thick aerial roots hanging from it. This stem can easily be 30 or 40cm. high, and much more in really old plants. Again, the funnel shaped flowers have orange tips.

Clivia mirabilis.

Clivia x cyrtanthiflora. This originally referred to a cross between *Clivia miniata* and *Clivia nobilis*, but has now come to describe any cross of *C.miniata*. The original crosses had flowers with broad funnel shaped flowers whilst the name as used today covers a vast range of *Clivia* hybrids. Most breeders use *C.caulescens* as the other parent and cross in both directions.

CULTIVATION.

Clivia are very easy and this together with their spectacular flower heads may well be the main reason for their popularity. The main requirements are:

- 1) Shade and a reasonably humid atmosphere. They should not be exposed to bright sun, particularly when the plants are under glass. The plants come from the floor of the forest and the leaves can easily suffer scorching from full sun
- 2) Good drainage is essential in whatever growing medium is used. The plants seem happy in the usual range of growing medium, but prefer a fairly open texture – such as would be found amongst the composted leaves and other debris that might be found on the floor of a forest. The plants are gross feeders and benefit from a balanced or potash orientated fertiliser when in growth. It is also beneficial if the fertiliser contains all the usual trace elements as some of these may otherwise be absent in pot culture.
- 3) The leaves should be a good even dark green. If they are a yellowish green, the plant is usually short of nutrition – either there is none left in the pot and the plant needs re-potting or more likely there is trouble at its roots.
- 4) Plants need a cool period before they start into growth, probably a few weeks, in which the flower buds are initiated. A minimum temperature of about 5 deg.C seems to work well.

PESTS and DISEASES.

The main pest that attacks Clivia is mealy bug which should be dealt with as soon as it is seen. Left unchecked, it will soon cause a lot of damage and be a major problem.

Plants can also suffer damage from slugs and snails, not to mention scorch from bright sun, particularly when under glass. Western Flower thrips, if present does very little damage but could pass on virus as it is a potential vector.

If the compost becomes sodden, there is a strong possibility of the roots all rotting off at the base of the plant. Should this happen, the base of the plant can be cleaned up and calluses allowed to form. The plant can then be re-potted in a mix of sharp sand with a little peat added with the mix kept only slightly damp. New roots should appear after some weeks. Clivia respond to both foliar feeding and foliar watering which are very helpful if the plant has lost its roots.

Clivia can become infected with virus, but this is very rare. However, control of insect pests that can act as vectors should remove even that remote possibility.

PROPAGATION.

This is nearly always undertaken by seed or by division. If a particular clone is required, then the only realistic solution is to divide the parent plant.

Seed will take around 10 months to ripen, and once sown, should germinate in 2 – 4 weeks. From sowing the seed to flowering should take 3 – 4 years except for *C.nobilis* which will take around 7 years.

When sowing seed, the one critical requirement is that the seed is not buried under the surface of the growing medium as this more often than not, rots the radicle. The seed should be pressed about 5mm. into the surface of the growing medium with the little pimple facing down. The little pimple will be the emerging radicle which should appear within about 4 weeks. Occasionally, the radicle may push itself out of the growing medium and have to be re-planted. Temperature is not critical but a little bottom heat is helpful in getting the seedling off to a good start.

FURTHER INFORMATION.

The web is a very rewarding source of information on all aspects of *Clivia* cultivation and sources of supply, most of which are abroad. Payment can usually be made by sending US dollar notes by registered airmail or by card.

The *Clivia* Society website is particularly informative and can be found at: www.cliviasociety.org

A search through the first few pages of Google for *Clivia miniata* will reveal a wide selection of sources for both seed and plants. For those possessed of patience, seed will prove by far the more rewarding route to a fine collection of this very attractive genus.

There is only two books easily available on the genus, and they are:
CLIVIAS by Harold Koopowitz, published by Timber Press in 2002.
Grow Clivias by Graham Duncan part of the Kirstenbosch Gardening series, 2008

See Photographs sent separately by email

Re: *Ipheion sessile* and *recurvifolium*

I apologise to anyone who received these from me in the bulb exchange who has found the bulbs have remained dormant this season. My bulbs have also stayed dormant. I have been talking to Rannveig Wallis about them; she says these species need a summer baking to get them to grow when the autumn 'rain' comes. This year mine got moved from the top shelf of the greenhouse down onto the main bench where it is not as hot, and also of course it

wasn't a brilliant summer. I have stopped watering my bulbs now (November) and plan to keep them cool and dry till May and then put them up in the sun.

Jon Evans

Two of our members appear to have moved and changed their email addresses without notifying me. If any of you know where I can contact Junius des Brisay or Ms Nick Sharp would you contact me either by email; mick.reed@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 01293 420975.

Do have a look at the updated website www.africanbulbs.com. This has had over 1000 pictures added to it recently and is well worth looking at.

It would be an advantage to me and the group if members could let me know what their main interest is in Southern African Bulbs. Occasionally I receive offers of books etc. at reasonable prices but it would help if I knew approximately how many of our members keen growers of certain S.A. Bulbs.

Mick Reed

Please forgive me if there any mistakes or omissions from this Newsletter but I have had a major breakdown on my computer.

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/>)
- **Desirable Plants**, Pentamar, Crosspark, Totnes, Devon Mail Order ONLY
Email: Sutton.totnes@lineone.net [s, Devon Totnes, Devon](#)
- **Great Western Gladiolus** Email: clutton.glad@btinternet.com Listing includes a number of South African taxa.
- **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>
- **Trecanna Nursery** Latchley, Cornwall. Tel No. 01822 834680 S.A. Bulbs and plants
Website <http://www.trecanna.com/>
- **Springbank Nurseries** (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 2005.

- **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@xsinet.co.za
- **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)

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. A formerly useful source, the Botanical Society of South Africa, has withdrawn seed distribution to overseas members. Purchasing from the Kirstenbosch seed list is still possible but the range of species available is limited