THE SPECIES LILY

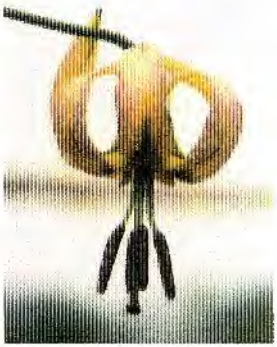
The Newsletter of the
Species Lily Preservation Group
Affiliated with The North American Lily Society

L. lankongense

Chinese Species Edition
Fall, 1998

Above: *L. henryi*

Below: "New" Chinese Lily



SLPG GOALS

* Collecting seed and growing as many species lilies as possible, especially those rare and in danger of extinction.
* Making excess species bulbs available to members.
* Collecting, preserving, planting, growing and distributing species seed.
* Collecting all possible information on each species: its habitat, distribution, cultural needs, etc.
* Disseminating cultural information on each species.
* Assembling a slide and photo record of all species lilies.
* Identifying areas where specific species grow and seeking protection for these areas.

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Lilium henryi:
The choice of three top hybridizers
I) In Praise of L. henryi
Ed Soboczenski

Asked to organize the 100 species lilies in order of their beauty or attractiveness, a small percentage of lily enthusiasts would undoubtedly choose *L. henryi* as most beautiful, but the overwhelming majority would certainly choose some other species. A friend of mine insists that *L. speciosum rubrum* is the most beautiful of all, while others wax eloquent about the more dainty species such as *L. canadense* and *L. superbum*. I would choose *L. auratum* based on my love of size, drama, fragrance, and petal substance. Asked to select the most important species lily from the point of view of creating new, tough, disease-resistant, beautiful hybrids which will grow well anywhere and for anyone, most hybridizers, I believe, would choose *L. henryi* as being most important.

Years ago, those who were trying to classify lilies into groupings to simplify understanding them had minimal problems grouping Asiatics, trumpets, and Orientals, but where did *L. henryi* fit? It seemed to be a loner type lily, which didn't want to form crosses with any known lily species. It was not until the very late 1920s when Debras obtained two seeds from the cross with *L. sargentiae* that classification was possible. He called the resulting seedling that survived *L. aurelianense* after Orleans, France, classified *L. henryi* with the trumpets, and published his findings. This cross is alleged to have

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(In Praise of *L. henryi*: *continued from page 5)*
been previously made by a German worker who did not publish his findings, and, consequently, remains obscure. Subsequent crosses of this nature have provided us with an immense number of exceedingly beautiful hybrid lilies of which many are famous, and are sold in large numbers today. 'White Henryi,' the second lily named to the Lily Hall of Fame, 'Gold Eagle,' and recently the upright Aurelians attest to the value of the first successful cross.

L. henryi would be famous enough for the Aurelians alone if no further discoveries were made with it, but Leslie Woodriff persisted to make the cross onto *L. speciosum rubrum*, an allegedly apomictic lily. The resulting orienpet, 'Black Beauty,' and its conversion to a tetraploid by Greisback and others led to the large and growing family of orienpets and tetraorienpets, which, like the aurelians, have greatly expanded the range and growing ease of an exceedingly beautiful and powerful group of lilies.

I have been unable to locate an article which I first saw many years ago, and which first mentions and shows pictures of crosses between and among several species including *L. henryi* and others like *L. auratum*. Some flowers were absolutely bizarre, but the implication of beauty and disease resistance yet to come was inescapable. Follow-ups on that work can be found in the 1982 NALS Yearbook, page 61, showing pictures of *L. nobilissimum* x *L. henryi* and (*L. auratum platyphyllum* x *L. speciosum*) x *L. henryi*, an exceptionally tough and beautiful lily. Pictures of *L. henryi* x *L. candidum*, and

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(In Praise of *L. henryi: continued from page 6)*
of the very beautiful triploid 'Dominique' x (*L. auratum* x *L. henryi*) can be found in the 1990 NALS Yearbook, page 16.

An article in the 1986 NALS Yearbook by Dr. R. Lighty shows a black and white picture of Eureka, an *L. henryi* x Asiatic cross hybridized by Dr. C. North at Invergowrie, Scotland. Homick's "Named Lily Hybrids," 1985 edition, page 84, describes it as a spotted, orange lily. It looks very similar in shape and markings to 'Henry's Surprise,' a spotted yellow lily, produced by Cebeco and sold by B&D Lilies. Other such hybrids offered by The Lily Nook are a series named 'Ivory,' 'Silky,' 'Fiery,' 'Creamy,' and 'Blushing Belles.' My 'Ivory Belles,' planted last fall, grew well, blooming in mid-June with six light-yellow, bowl shaped flowers having a dark reverse. Very nice, but none of the pods on the five flowers pollinated with a selection of pollens produced seeds. Foliage is a dark, healthy green. Considering that *L. henryi* is now known to cross with a wide variety of species, should it still be classified with the trumpets?

L. henryi was the first lily that I ever grew in my own garden. An acquaintance was totally renovating his very diverse, extensive gardens early one spring and was selling off much of his current stock. While digging some of his plants, I came across an emerging stem of something I thought was a lily. I loved the Easter and Tiger Lilies, the only ones I could recognize at the time. In hindsight, it certainly was a terrible time to transplant

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(In Praise of *L. henryi*: *continued from page 7)*
it, but it grew well in its new location and bloomed late in the summer. Never having seen this rather drab orange, extremely recurved flower blooming at the end of a long, floppy stem, falling almost to the ground, I was actually dismayed at my purchase. In the years that followed, I acquired other lilies, mainly those of de Graaff, and revelled in the beauty of Imperial Gold, Black Dragon, and other new introductions. Gradually over the years, that first *L. henryi* became so highly shaded and crowded in among flowering shrubs that it disappeared. I was not to own another *L. henryi* for some years when, in about 1970, I greatly expanded my lily holdings and added the second *L. henryi.* This has greatly multiplied and continues to persist in my garden, providing pleasure and interesting seeds for myself, my friends, and for the various seed exchanges.

Sometime in the late 1970s, I became aware of *L. henryi citrinum*, a yellow version of the species. It was not an easy variety to locate, but at some time during that period, I learned that Blue Belle Lilies, a small company founded and operated by Marvin Thompson in south-eastern Pennsylvania, offered the bulb for sale. While it had the yellow flower as noted, the plant was much less vigorous and was soon lost without the pampering apparently required to keep it growing well. Only last year, I acquired *L. henryi citrinum* 'Ypsilante' from Charles Kroell, a selection made by him some time ago and named for a city in Michigan. It seems to be doing quite well planted in a shady location in my garden here in Lewes.

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One of the most stunning selections of *L. henryi* was a white version grown by Josephine Henry from seeds of *L. henryi citrinum* obtained from the NALS Seed Exchange, and described in the 1988 NALS Yearbook, page 25. The color picture shows an *L. henryi* shaped flower, white with a large green nectary, margined with dramatic, long, white papillae, and having red-brown tick marks along the edges of each petal. It is named *L. henryi* 'Josephine', but was tragically lost rather quickly after it was described.

I am sure that I have only scratched the surface in bringing this information concerning *L. henryi,* its selections, and its numerous tough, beautiful hybrids to you. Much more immensely interesting information can certainly be found by looking a bit further. However, this certainly is sufficient to prove my point that *L. henryi* is an exceedingly important lily. If you aren't growing it, why not buy a bulb or two of this giant of lilydom to become familiar with it first hand? And if you purchase any of its hybrid progeny, you certainly can count on having them survive and beautify your garden for many years to come.

Authors Wanted

The Spring 1999 newsletter will cover more North American species and our efforts to preserve them. If you (or anyone you know) would like to contribute an article, please contact the editor. Thank you!

Lilium henryi:
The Choice of Three Top Hybridizers
2) Reflections Concerning *L. henryi*

Charlie Kroell

It can be said without reservation that *L. henryi* is one of the most important influential members of the genus. A splendid lily to begin with, its union with the Chinese trumpet species during the 1920s-1940s gave rise to the great race of Aurelian hybrids; and in only recent years it has provided the predominant genetic base for those "new kids on the block," the orienpets. If you are reading this article, chances are good that the history of *L. henryi* — its discovery, introduction to western gardens and invaluable contributions to *Lilium* hybrids — is already known to you; however, a brief overview will be given here:

The species was discovered in 1888 by Augustine Henry, an Irish former professor and physician, then working as a medical officer in the British Chinese Customs Service. This so called "orange speciosum" was found growing on limestone cliffs, apparently in pockets of humus rich soil, in gorges high up the Yangtse River near Ichang (Yichang) were Henry, also an amateur botanist and plant collector, was stationed. Herbarium specimens and bulbs were sent to Kew. Two years later E.H. Wilson found *L henryi* growing in two other locations within some 50 miles of Henry's original site in Hubei Provence. Wilson sent shipments of bulbs to both Britain and the U.S.; and, according to Woodstock and

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(Reflections Concerning *L. henryi: continued from page 10)*
Stern [1], *circa* 1950, much of the present stock then in cultivation was believed to have been derived from Wilson's collections. Fox [2] suggests that the distribution of *L. henryi* may be limited to this region near the location of its discovery and that it "must be a rare lily in the wild." Haw [3], on the other hand, places it in Jiangxi and Guizhou Provences, as well as Hubei, but without further details.

The earliest recorded successful cross involving henryi and a trumpet species is *L. leucanthum chloraster* x *L. henryi*, made at Kew in 1889. A seedling, christened L. x kewense, flowered in 1900 but proved to be weak and was eventually lost. It appears not to have been used in further hybridizing but did serve as inspiration for E. Debras, from Orleans, France, who produced two viable seeds (1925) and one surviving seedling (1928) from the cross *L. sargentiae* x *L. henryi*. The latter he named *L. x aurelianense*, from the 5th century Latin name for Orleans. All clonal stock of this lily was eventually destroyed by Debras himself because of virus infection, but not before he had used it as the source for many other seedlings (selfing and backcrossing to both parents) [1]. From subsequent work done in the U.S., there followed 'T.A. Havemeyer, ' believed [1] to have resulted from the cross *L. henry* x *L. sulphureum*, in 1933 by T. Barry; a proliferation of 'Aurelian Hybrids' by both C. Yerex and Oregon Bulb Farms in the mid to late 1930s; and a much beloved ironclad 'White Henryi' by Leslie Woodriff from *L. henryi* x *L.leucanthum centifolium*, around 1945. Woodriff's even more famous

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(Reflections Concerning *L. henryi*: *continued from page 11)*
cross involving *L. henryi* and clearly his magnum opus, 'Black Beauty' (*L. speciosum* (not var. *punctatum* [4]) x *L. henryi*), whether itself technically an orienpet or not [5], most certainly has been a cornerstone for this newest race of important Lilium hybrids.

Great vigor, disease resistance and beauty are both inherent to and have been contributed through hybridization by *L. henryi*. The type, so familiar to us all, holds great aesthetic appeal – at least for me. Although orange in color, so common in *Lilium*, the hue can be deep and rich. Fully reflexed tepals result in a globular perianth, from the center of which spring long, gracefully arched filaments bearing burnt orange, pollen laden anthers. The style is slender and the stigma remarkably small. The beauty of this floral architecture is greatly enhanced by conspicuous papillae in the throat. These consist of both protruding "nubs" and longer, lower "ridges," some of which are typically flecked with dark markings; and the nectaries are deeply green. I believe that at times I may have detected a slight subtle fragrance. One very distinctive characteristic of *L. henryi*, which is passed on to many hybrids, is its so called dimorphic foliage – long and lanceolate over most of the stem but becoming ovate and nearly circular towards the base of the inflorescence. One might also say that unfortunately a weak stem is frequently inherited from *L. henryi*. On the other hand, the curvature of the arching stem may be viewed in the eye of the beholder as an attribute, lending grace and charm to the plant as a whole.

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(Reflections Concerning *L. henryi: continued from page 12)*

If indeed *L. henryi* is of restricted distribution in the wild, the fact that it has proven to be such an exceedlingly adaptable lily in cultivation is certainly interesting. Although reported to be of limited stature and floriferousness in its natural habitat, great vigor is commonly demonstrated in cultivation. A prime example is the Isabella Preston Award winning stem grown and exhibited by Calvin Helsley at the 1991 NALS show in Springfield, MO.

How great the intraspecific diversity of *L. henryi* may be appears yet to be determined. Rowe [6] believed it to be significant. There is a yellow variant, *citrinum*, the origin and history of which are clouded [7], and which to my knowledge has yet to be reported in the wild. This summer (1998) *L. henryi* flowered in this country from bulbs newly acquired from China through an Internet order placed with the Kaichen Nursery, Beijing, by David Sims. The bulbs, said to have been collected in the wild (Where?), were shared by Sims with others. Four bloomed for me, displaying remarkable variation. In two, the petals were broad at the base, completely overlapping the sepals and exposing fully only three nectary furrows. In one of the others, there was no segment overlap; and all six of the nectaries were entirely revealed and unusually conspicuous, extending far out into the tepals and tapering only slightly toward their termini. All were richly colored and of excellent substance.

Possibly, additional bulbs from Kaichen orders will

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(Reflections Concerning *L. henryi: continued from page 13)*
reveal still further variation. Of great interest will be information concerning the location(s) where harvesting has been carried out and whether or not a yellow variant has ever been seen.

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Lilium henryi:
The Choice of Three Top Hybridizers
Lilium henryi: The Species "Animal"

Warren Summers

L. henryi was one of the first species lily bulbs I obtained as a neophyte liliophile. It was purchased at the New England Regional Lily Group fall bulb sale in 1974. This lily has thrived and multiplied in the garden in various soils and conditions, full sun to moderate shade, and without any special care. It is the longest-lived lily in my garden.

As time went by, I began to appreciate the subtlety of its beauty and durability. *L. henryi* has a mahogany red bulb which rodents don't relish and leave alone. It is resistant to most of the diseases which doom lilies to the graveyard including virus, and root and bulb rots. Other unique traits include raised fleshy pappilliae, long stamens and pistil, a beautiful recurved turkscap flower form, orange anthers, and a prominent green star-like nectary. *L. henryi* is a true garden "animal" for its beauty and durability.

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Augustine Henry, a plant explorer from Ireland, discovered this lily in 1888 growing on the limestone cliffs of the Ichng gorge of the Yangtsze River in the Hupek province of China. Dried specimens were sent to Kew at the time and catalogued by Baker. In 1900, large bulb shipments were sent to America and England where it was introduced to gardens. At the time, E.H. Wilson surveyed the original location in the Ichang gorge and found it had been virtually exterminated due to collecting; however, he discovered it in other locations 50 miles north-west of Ichang. Rainfall in its native habitat averages 30 inches in the summer, the autumn is dry, and winters are fairly severe. In the wild, *L. henryi* grows in pockets of decayed vegetable matter overlaid with decomposed leaf mold. *L. henryi* is stem rooting with weak, arching stems. One can just imagine these graceful lilies arching over the outcrops in their native habitat. The 1940 Breck's catalog describes *L. henryi* as "(The Yellow Speciosum) a splendid lily which resembles closely the speciosum varieties in form, growing to a height of 4 to 8 feet, and bearing in August from five to twenty flowers of brightly orange-yellow slightly spotted brown, with a band of green in the base of each segment."

The legacy of *L. henryi* only begins with its performance in the garden. Edouard Debras crossed *henryi* with *sargentiae* in the famous L. x aurelianense to begin the line of trumpet lilies called Aurelians. Leslie Woodriff crossed *henryi* with *leucanthum* var. *centifolium* to

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produce 'White Henryi' and with *L. speciosum* to produce the famous 'Black Beauty.' *Auratum platyphyllum* was crossed with *henryi* in Japan and tagged 82-111. 'Black Beauty' and 'White Henryi' were converted to tetraploids to improve fertility and, along with 82-111, formed much of the genetic base for the now famous orienpet hybrids. The fertility of *L. henryi* was used to bridge the genetic gap in this new race of lilies with the beauty of the Oriental lilies and the "garden animal" traits in the hybrids from the *L. henryi* genetic "animal."

L. henryi is an unheralded gift to the lily world – a lily of true distinction and mystery. It is truly fitting and no surprise that *L. henryi*, exhibited by Calvin Helmsley, won Best of Show at a recent NALS show in Missouri.

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L. lankongense: A Jewel from a Province in China

Rizanino Reyes

No other Chinese species compares to the ethereal beauty of *Lilium lankongense*. Prized by many lily connoisseurs, its elegant and delicate blooms have charmed the lily world by itself and by the many hybrids derived from this little gem.

For the true purist who enjoys a challenge and wants the 'real thing,' *lankongense* is a species that's always worth a try. It's tolerant of many conditions and has thrived in open beds in the northwest. Best of all, the lily has immediate epigeal germination so starting from seed isn't all that difficult. Bulbs are beginning to become more available these days with the ongoing work of Mr. Edward McRae at Lava and Fairdale Nurseries. The key is to prevent virus from attacking the seedlings so bulbs can be offered without fear of the species failing to grow; starting from seed ensures that one will have clean stock.

Living in an apartment, the only place for my four marble-sized *lankongense* bulbs was in a container. I sought to find the best medium that contains compost, leaf organic matter and sand to aerate and drain the soil. I just threw in what I felt seemed good and planted the bulbs about three inches deep. The success to growing a species well is understanding its natural habit and habitat. This doesn't mean re-creating your entire garden to mimic a Chinese landscape, but understanding how it grows in its native habitat and doing what you can to re-create that home as closely as possible, using materials you have and can get and seeing what happens.

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L. lankongense can be a fussy plant to gardeners who plan everything precisely and know exactly what plants will go where. It has a stoloniform habit, meaning that the stolons travel underground before the stem emerges. Along these stolons, bulblets form. The original bulb may stay in one place, but its stem may emerge two feet away! Then I found that the stoloniform can actually be controlled in a container when I checked to see if my bulbs were still alive. I saw that the stolons just wind around the container and the stems often emerge near the edge of the pot. Much like pot culture of *L. nepalense* in a cool greenhouse, the same technique can be tried with *L. lankongense*. Two disadvantages of growing stoloniform plants in pots are 1) that they really prefer wandering and having all the room to grow naturally and 2) the stolons often grow near the bottom, find the light and send their stem out the drainage hole!

What a surprise to see all four stems emerge in the spring, unharmed by the year's unusual weather. They eventually got leggy and died down with no sign of buds or blooms. Confinement in a container may have contributed to the lack of bloom. More light and feeding may help to encourage bloom as well as another year or two of establishment. These are valuable lessons in growing species: one must allow a plant to establish itself fully in its new environment and allow it to grow as it was meant to be grown in its natural habitat.

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L. lankongense has become a vital part in various breeding programs around the world. The ultimate goal was to breed and produce strong, easy-to-grow hybrids that would thrive in all areas while retaining the grace, unusually pendant form, spotting pattern, color, fragrance and elegant stature of the Chinese species. Dr. Chris North is one of the many to achieve this by breeding *L lankongense* with time-tested Asiatics and *L. davidii.* Through embryo culturing, Dr. North created a series of hybrids, including the well-known, always beautifully sweet 'Ariadne.' Another pioneer interested in *L. lankongense* is Ms. Judith Freeman who, after extensive work, produced a hybrid strain called Southern Belles. Later on the strain was crossed with stronger, more virus-tolerant hybrids to create two strains very familiar to lily enthusiasts around the country: Chippendale and Rosepoint Lace. Both have proven to be strong growers and as vigorous as can be, but still possess the elegance and gracefulness that started it all.

The allure and elegance of *L. lankongense* must never disappear or be overshadowed by the new hybrids. It has the simplicity and charm that sets it apart from all the rest. And no matter where it goes – from a province in China to our backyards – *L. lankongense* will still add beauty and grace to the landscape.

L. leucanthum var. cenifolium Stearn 1935

(synonym L. centifolium Stapf and Elwes 1921)

Edward A. McRae

The species is native to Hubei and Gansu provinces in southern China. The original lily of this name, sent in 1889 to England by Augustine Henry from Hubei province, was lost to civilization.

The variety was found in 1914 by the English plant-hunter Reginald Farrer growing in a garden in southern Gansu, China. Jan de Graaff later received seed, also collected in gardens in Gansu, China by Dr. Rock. This seed produced the spectcular Black Dragon Stain (originally known as Black Magic).

The variety grows up to 2 meters (7 feet) tall with mature plants bearing 7 to 20 large, white trumpets in a raceme. The flowers are heavily scented with white tepals and pale gold throats. The outer tepals are dark rose-purple in color and are supremely attractive. The stems are covered with dark green, linear leaves. The bulbs are dark purple and can reach an enormous size in mature plants. Plants flower in July and August. Seed germination is immediate epigeal.

The cultivation of *L. leucanthum* var. *centifolium* is easy in warmer climates; an open, sunny site with rich,

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well-drained soil is ideal. Bulbs also benefit from mulching to keep the soils cool; organic material or low-growing, non-competitive ground covers are excellent.

Hardiness is a question in colder regions. We need species group members to report on its performance, giving information on climate, soils and whether or not winter protection was given.

I have enjoyed this lily for well over thirty years and feel strongly it is the finest of the Chinese trumpet species. In the summer of 1997 I had the pleasure of studying a fine planting of *L. leucanthum* var. *centifolium* at Cebeco Lilies in Aurora, Oregon. There were thousands in the planting, just as beautiful and stately as ever. We looked for sturdy plants with shorter pedicels and found a few that were exceptional. We also looked for superior flower form, pure white color and the deepest color in the reverse of the tepals. Selecting the finest forms from within such a population of seedlings reduces even the limited variation found within the variety. I also admired a magnificent clone of *L. leucanthum* var. *centifolium* at Cebeco

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Lilies in the summer of 1998. It possessed all the qualities mentioned.

I have no memory of ever producing hybrids of L. *leucanthum* var. *centifolium* over the past 35 years; perhaps I echoed the feelings of Derek Fox on his views on L. concolor: 'How can we ever improve this magnificent and stately lily?'

There are, however, reports of hybrids with *L. regale* and this would surely be a wise combination with regard to hardiness. Leslie Woodriff produced 'White Henryi" from crossing *leucanthum* var. *centifolium* with *L. henryi*. There are more hybrid combinations, I'm sure, but poor records have always presented headaches in trumpet lily hybridizing. Teresa Leap of Cebeco Lilies has produced some unique and special hybrids; a group from crosses between pink trumpets and *leucanthum* var. *centifolium* were a feast to the eye.

I hope this wonderful Chinese trumpet lily can be enjoyed by as many as possible. I would encourage more hybridizing to enable it, or similar forms, to be grown in an even wider variety of climates.

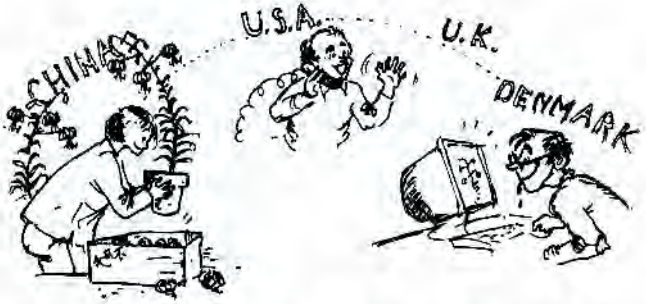
Correction

The address for Heronswood Nursery was incorrect in the Spring 1998 newsletter. The correct address is

7530 NE 288th St
Kingston, WA 98346

A New Species from China ?

John Lykkegaard



The whole thing started with a phone call from Charles Kroell last summer. One of the things he told me was about some strange pictures from David Sims, showing unknown species lilies. He told me that David had printed these pictures from a Web Site from China. Although it sounded interesting, I didn't notice until a few days later when David, whom I already knew from Lilium-l, e-mailed me a few pictures of the two lilies and asked me if I could identify them.

I remembered what Charles had told me a few days before and asked David if he had found these pictures on a Chinese Web Site. He confessed — and I got the Link to Kaichen Nursery. By that time Chen Yi, who runs this retail nurcery, had three unknown lily species (now she has seven!). The pictures on her Web Site were't very detailed and some of the pictures only showed the flower and not the whole plant. It really wasn't an easy task to identify these lilies although I tried even with help from the original description of the Chinese species in

(A New Species from China? *continued from page 25)*
their language!

The price for the bulbs was very fair — from $1.50-$6.00 US. Ole Larsen, another friend of mine, also wanted to import some, so we decided to try this. At first Kaichen Nursery refused an order of several thousand dollars. I found out that Ole had misunderstood the smallest amount of each article, and as she also offered a lot of other bulbs and orchids, Ole had ordered these in small amounts and therefore our order wasn't accepted. The smallest amount was 20 bulbs from each article and when he corrected that, there was no trouble.

The next surprise was how fast we got our order. Three days after the packet was mailed from Bejing, Ole found the postman ringing on his door. Although he knew he wasn't allowed to import orchids from China he couldn't withstand the temptation. Two hours after he received the packet, two gentlemen from the plant inspection department asked if by any chance he had received a packet from China. By that time the orchid was hidden away!

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(A New Species from China? *continued from page 26)*

Back to lilies. The bulbs looked fine, although they were a little dehydrated, but none had basal roots, and we could imagine that they had been out of the ground for some time. Besides the three unknown species, there was *L. henryi, L. leucanthum, L. nanum, L. speciosum* var. *gloriosoides* and *Nomocharis meleagrina.* The nursery wasn't able to deliver all the different lily bulbs we wanted, as it was late in the season, but we were satisfied with what we got.

The bulbs were placed in plastic bags with moist peat and kept frost free throughout the winter. In the early spring I placed one bulb in each pot, surrounded the bulb with gravel and filled the rest of the pot with pure peat, something I can recommend as an insurance against bulb rot. This worked fine even in the greenhouse, where I usually have heavy losses when I grow lilies in pots. I will now concentrate on the species Kaichen sold as "Species 1".

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The lily is 130 cm high. The leaves are 1-10 cm, with the lower leaves much smaller than the middle and top ones. The flower is 4.5 cm in cream yellow fading to pure white with a yellow center and a very fine black mid-stripe. The scented flowers are up to four in a racemose inflorescence and held on very long pedicels 16-18 cm long.The pollen is brown. The huge bulb (the size of an orange) is slightly yellow-white.

There are the following differences from *L. taliense:*

- Leaves smooth-edged (not papillose)
- Stem not papillose, and fairly streaked with purple. Bulb 5-10 cm or bigger (ie. considerably LARGER than *L. taliense*)
- Leaf upper surface and margin as *L. taliense*, but under-surface scabrid or minutely papillose. Leaf axils are sparsely floccose at each edge (not a feature noted for *L. taliense*)
- Flower pale yellow fading to white as the flower ages, but the yellow remains visible
- Nectary naked (as *L. taliense*), but black (NOT purple)
- Pollen dark brownish orange (NOT deep yellow)
- Style only 2-2.5 cm long (shorter than *L .taliense*), speckled with purple along its entire length (NOT just towards apex)
- Stigma purple and NOT green
- Pedicels 16-18 cm long (NOT 8 cm)

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I did some crosses with this lily and *L. duchartrei*, but although the seedpod did develop to some size, it aborted when half as big as the cross-pollinated seedpods that developed between the two flowering bulbs I had. The seeds look like *L.taliense*. It isn't self fertile.

The next shipment will arrive on 10 October— we nearly cannot wait to see what we will get this time as several of the bulbs weren't what we thought they were. One of the surprizes was *L. leucanthum*--it showed out to be *L. sulphureum*.

P.S. A thanks to Alisdair (U.K.) for some of the description of this lily.

[Ed McRae believes this lily is *L. taliense*.]

L. concolor: Morning Star Lily

Edward A. McRae

This is a dainty and attractive lily from the provinces of central and north-eastern China, Mongolia, Japan and Korea. It is easily recognized by its upright and charming star-shaped flowers. The species was first introduced into English gardens in 1805.

The slender, rigid stems are from 1 to 4 feet in height. The linear to lanceolate leaves are borne horizontally. The bulbs are small, round and white with unusually

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broad scales. The seed is small and germination is immediate epigeal. The flowers are brilliant scarlet, generally unspotted and slightly fragrant. Plants usually carry 5 to 15 star-shaped blossoms. The styles is shorter than the ovary, a distinguishing mark.

Considering its wide range of habitats, there are surprisingly many varieties, including an excellent citron-yellow form, *L. concolor* var. *coridion*. The Japanese name 'K Hime-Yuri' (yellow Maiden Lily) means 'princess or girl of a good family.' This excellent variety was grown for several years at Oregon Bulb Farms, being considered the finest in the group. Seed of any yellow form would be deeply appreciated.

'Fireworks,' Matchless' x (*L. concolor x L. pumilum*), is perhaps the only hybrid available from this species. Derek Fox writes, "Perhaps its wild beauty should be allowed to range over the wide hills of eastern Asia unensnared." The true species was surely admired by many in 1998. Still, future hybridizers can dream of delicate, strong, tiny star-flowered lilies in a wide range of colors. Perhaps we can inspire even Derek!

This is a sun-loving species which prefers an open location and well-drained soil. Bulbs must be planted deeply with a minimum of four inches of soil over the top. A planting in a rock garden in Portland survived for well over ten years. The species has been described as short lived in certain soils and climates. In this instance it can be continually renewed by new seedling popula-

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(L. concolor: continued from page 30)

tions. I was delighted to see this lovely species flower beautifully in several gardens in 1998. This excellent form is stronger and later flowering and will again be offered in quantity by the species group, fall 1999.

Left:
L. concolor

Below:
L. concolor, an unusual variation

Left:
L. henryi,
1991 NALS Show

Below:
L. leucanthum
var.
centifolium