

# **JCA**

**Trip No 1**

**Corsica**

**28 March - 11 April 1962**

**JCA1 - 73**

28th March, 1962 - northern<sup>-facing</sup> valley below  
la Pianetta; woodland to meadow

1. Uroid sp. la Pianetta, 300ft, but  
*Vivarium vulgare* form numerous over whole area from  
sea level upwards; always among granite boulders  
growing up through the humus of the crevices;  
either open or shady situation but roots always  
under rocks; both leaves and flowers variable  
the latter in the amount of mahogany to pale  
green 'varnishing' of the top of the spathe.

2. Helleborus argutifolius. la Pianetta, below  
Capo d'Orto at  
500ft. but occurring at all elevations except  
alpine and in many situations; finest plants  
encountered were at the base of boulders in  
mountain pasture-land, where plenty humus was  
available in the way of cow-dung.

3. Monocot. - Allium sp. (?) la Pianetta -  
grows everywhere  
probably worthless; collected out of flower;  
in all situations (see 18 - A. pendulicium - triquetrum)

4. Bulbous monocotyledon - Hyaemthys sp.?  
Muscari sp.?

very numerous occurring in every area of the district and in every situation; generally preferring a rich heavy soil with ample humus; collected out of flower. (Muscari comutum)

5. Uchis sp.? - O. provincialis / var.? -

not in flower; almost certainly O. provincialis; growing in fairly dense dappled shade among Cistus, Erica arborea and Genista in rich heavy humus overlying the stony subsoil at the base of a high steep 'cliff-bank'; ? Neotinea intacta

29th March, 1962 - Estuary of  
river Porto and  
southwards  
towards Piana

6. Cistus sp. (~~villosus, L?~~) salvifolius Occurring in many  
situations & one  
of the main constituents of the 'maquis'; a few  
collected on a dry, slope of stoney clay; south-  
west facing position; a very fine white-flowered  
shrub and the dwarfest of the genus in  
Corsica, usually about 2-3ft.

7. Asium pictum, L.f.? Bed of Porto  
river in Arbutus  
thicket; growing what appeared to be pure  
sand but almost certainly rich in the alluvium  
which the river must carry down when in  
spate; not in flower; plain green arrow-  
shaped leaves (not A. italicum v. pictum);  
tubers growing deeply in the loose sand,  
which was extremely warm, though the  
position was in heavy shade.

8. Serapias sp. About 100 ft above the mouth of the Porto on a very steep north-facing bank; among *Cistus* roots with grasses and mosses; very damp and stony soil, rich in humus in the form of leafmould; not in flower.

9. *Ophrys provincialis*? Same slope as above but generally in even wetter, shadier places; not in flower but the broad spotted leaves were abundant in one or two patches.

10. *Pomulea* sp. Above road from Porto to Piana at about 200 ft. above sea level; with grasses, mosses and lichens in crevices and pockets of sandy stony humus on and between the granite slabs; rocky bank practically vertical at points; east-facing position.

11. Bulbous mosswort. A few collected in

11. similar situations to 10; one or two  
broad leaves about 2-4 in. long  
usually lying along the ground; possibly  
*Leucopim roseum* - but may be just useful  
thinking; likes rather shaded crevices than 10.

12. Bulbous monocot Possibly same as 4,  
in grasses on same  
bank as 10, 11; a few collected - look rather  
a coarse plant but may be worthwhile; see from  
(*Muscari comosum*!!)

30th March, 1962 - Steep, North-west slope near mouth of river Porto towards Piara; S. side of Porto

13. Setopias sp.? Shady ledge among granite boulders; 50-100 ft.; among grasses, mosses, cyclamen and roots of Cistus; north-facing and fairly heavily shaded by surrounding 'maquis'; moist soil, gritty but rich in humus - almost peaty; collected out of flower; Orchis sp. - probably O. mascula, associated; some in bud.

14. Monocotyledonous bulb - probably same as 11 - Leucojum?; rock crevices both in shade and fairly open situations; among grasses; north and west-facing positions; collected out of flower - no indication of seed capsules or buds.

15. Pancratum illyricum, L. a few bulbs located; always growing singly far apart from another of the same; shady pockets of damp almost peaty leafsoil and

15. vegetable debris at about 6 in to 1 ft. below the surface; often wedged under or between lumps of granite; north-facing situation; 50-100 ft. above sea level; just appearing above ground among the mosses, grasses & Cyclamen.

16. Romulea sp. Open west-facing situation in crevices - very narrow and filled with gritty humus - on steep granite boulders at about  $75^\circ$  angle; among grasses; 50-100 ft. altitude



30th March, 1962. - Northern side of  
Poto gorge -  
below Uta.

17. Scirpius sp.? South-facing slope at  
500 ft. above Poto  
river; in heavy loam  
of clayey sand; among roots of *Cistus*, *Erica*  
*arborea* and *Cytisus*; not in flower.

18. Allium pendulinum, Tenore. Abundant  
everywhere;  
flowering in very wet place by stream; same  
as 3; very charming species which looks  
identical to *A. triquetrum*; grows in almost  
any situation; herbarium specimens collected.

19. Romulea sp. East-facing bank of granite  
boulders at 750 ft; below  
Uta; first located in rock crevices but best comms  
found growing by edge of road in sand actually  
beneath the tar surfacing, through which  
leaves had pushed; not in flower but semi-  
ripe seed capsules collected; *R. requienii*?

31st March, 1962 - South-east-facing slope  
of valley below la Pianetta.

20 Romulea sp. (?) - Fairly rich, well-drained  
soil between granite  
boulders in the pockets of soil & in crevices; 300 ft.;  
not in flower but seed capsules evident.

21. Bulbous monocotyledon - probably as 11, 14;  
growing in same  
situation and along with above but generally  
in much more shaded positions actually  
beneath the overhang of boulders.

22. Romulea sp. (?) - R. keelieri(?); at 600 ft  
facing due east beneath  
a Sweet Chestnut, among the roots on a gentle  
bank of hard, dry granite sand and clay; seed  
capsules well developed in most instances but  
two specimens in flower - inner segments,  $\frac{1}{8}$  in,  
white at tips through pale violet to a deep  
yellow interior, violet median vein; outer  
segments greenish white, black-violet median vein,  
exterior pale green; anthers - deep yellow; spathe

22. diphyllous, valves  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. long; stem  $\frac{3}{4}$  in.,  
procumbent curving upwards; leaves - cylindrical  
2-4, up to 7 in. long, cork - coriaceous,  $\frac{1}{8}$  in.  
diameter; herbarium specimens - 2 collected.

23. *Rosmarinus officinalis* - form(?) One plant only;  
drooping in  
a 20 ft. cascade down vertical crevices in sheer  
granite cliffs; east-facing position but in sun  
until late afternoon; very distinct in leaves  
and habit - absolutely prostrate where it  
reached the ground and rooting all along the  
stems when in contact with the stony soil;  
this may not be preserved in cultivation but may  
be worth trying - herbarium specimen and  
rooted pieces of stem collected; in flower.

24. *Dianthus gypsergerae*, Rouy (?) *Dianthus*  
sp. as far  
as habit and old seed capsules showed - stem  
obviously about 9 in. - 1 ft. long radiating from  
central tight grassy clump; looks interesting but utterly  
impossible to collect growing in rock. This fissure

on the vertical cliffs; only two specimens could  
be located - plants taken without root - may  
come from cuttings; situation as above at same  
altitude - about 750 ft. (probably not *D. gypsifera*)

25. Dicotyledon - cliff plant : situation as above;  
again interesting  
in appearance but impossible to dig - several  
attempts made but only one seedling located and  
excavated by removing away a slab of granite!;  
Ranunculaceae / Papaveraceae? ; very fleshy  
divided leaves and several runners from woody,  
trunk-like end of root which disappeared into a  
minute rock crevice; not in flower.

26.) } Sedum spp. - boulder slide; in shallow  
27.) } (only 1/2 in deep in some  
28.) } instances) pockets on the granite boulders,  
29.) } among mosses, lichens and *Polypodium*  
uligine roots; 26 & 27 found generally  
shadier situations; some if not all are  
of fairly frequent occurrence at lower-sea level  
altitudes and in more amenable positions

28 may be annual - S. caeruleum? ; others look perennial.

30. Romulea sp. - probably same as 28 - growing on opposite side of valley in very stony, sandy soil, poor and hard among sparse grasses; dappled shade on steep west-facing slope; not in flower but a few seed capsules evident.

2nd April, 1962. - coastline between  
Calvi and Pte. de Revellata,

31. *Romulea repens* (?) <sup>part.</sup> just above sea level in  
very hard dry gravel;  
among low coastal 'maquis' of citrus, lavender,  
etc. in grassy open patches; one specimen in  
flower - most bearing seed capsules; <sup>broadly ovate</sup> segments -  
deep violet,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long; anthers, deep yellow,  $\frac{1}{8}$  in.  
long; filaments - white; spathe - diphyllous; valves  
translucent, papery / pale green,  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. long;  
stem developing only with seed capsule; leaves  
2-6, cylindrical, more or less prostrate, usually  
3 in. long; corolla - coraceous,  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. diameter; tissues  
pale cinnamon brown; herbarium specimen & seed  
collected; very numerous in more open places.

32. *Scirpus lingua*, L. - just above sea level in  
low 'maquis'; grassy  
patches among and under bushes in heavy clayey but  
gravelly soil; one specimen in flower but most  
in bud; extremely numerous over the whole  
area; herbarium specimen taken. (maybe some  
*S. cordigera* mixed)

33. Ranunculus sp. - may be *repens* but leaves generally fewer and longer than 31; (probably just situation); heavy clay - fairly rich in humus overlaid with gravel and marble splittings; slightly calcareous conditions; not in flower but seed collected.

34. Allium sp. (?) - same situation as above; a few only in one stony pocket; not in flower.

35. Oxychilus maritimus - L. - among grasses under cistus; same situation as above; very numerous; most in flower - several distinct variations apparent; herbarium specimens collected.

36. Bulbous monocotyledon - as above; preferring more saxatile positions in crevices among rock slabs.

33, 34, 35 and 36 all growing more or less in association along with grasses, etc. under a among cistus bushes in heavy loam pocket overlaid with gravel between slabs of hard limestone marble.

37. Allium sp. (?) - base of Pointe de  
Revellata; pockets  
of extremely rich soil between rock slabs - soil  
composed almost solely of decomposed rabbit  
droppings and vegetable matter; forming mats of  
bulbs along with a few *Romuleas* and 38; rather  
shady, east-facing crevices and pockets.

38. Leucogonum roseum (?) - growing in  
close association  
with 37; very numerous; generally preferring  
shadier places to above - best clumps actually  
under overhang of rocks.



4th April, 1962 - Area to east of Calvi, along coast inland to Bonifato valley.

39. Muscari comosum, . - same as 4; very numerous in all areas covered so far but only found in flower here; among cistus scrub in open flat pastureland; rich heavy clay, firmly set; with low grass; bulbs growing very deeply; most in flower; herbarium specimens collected.

40. Scirpus sp.? - growing with above in same situation and with *Lochia morio*; not in flower; sea level.

41. Ranunculus sp. - meadow; rich heavy clay but containing numerous stones under which corals lay; associated plants - usual meadow vegetation - *Trifolium* spp, grasses, etc. and 4a; not in flower; seed collected; very numerous - so much so as to almost form a *carpet* in places; probably *R. repens*; altitude about 100 ft.

42. Labiate. - fair sized flowers of a good clear, pale, sky-blue in a cluster; same situation as 41; in flower; herbarium specimens collected; open position.

43. Gagea sp. ? - Probably not a Gagea but a few dug while collecting 44; same situation etc. as following - not in flower.

44. *Drumhoggalum exscopum*, Ten. - found in only one location to the north of the entrance to the Bonfato valley; extremely numerous in this place only; on 45° angle bank facing due north-east but relatively open and receiving sunlight from above filtered through sparse 'magnis'; fairly numerous down the whole length of a single rock-slab (about 100 yds. long) in soil pockets but mostly congregated in the area at the base of the rock in sopping-wet clay among smallest fist-sized granite rocks along with very numerous plants of a *Bellis* sp., as well as a few *Ranunculus* and grasses all bedded in

44. Mosses; also fairly numerous further along the base in a lush grassy bank with some fine *Urtica* among scattered cistus bushes as well as on a slightly drier mossy ledge; obviously enjoys very wet conditions when in growth at least, though some must dry out fairly thoroughly in the summer; in flower - numerous specimens collected; seed capsules evident though still rather green; altitude about 150 ft. above sea level.

45. *Sedum caeruleum* ? - same location as above but forming tight masses of scarlet leaves on the drier shallow pockets on the surface of the rock slab, among lichens and mosses; not in flower.

5th April, 1962. - Ponta de Revellata;

46. *Genista scorpius*, DC.? Only encountered  
*Genista lobelia* on dunes to south-  
west of Calin - gentle slope towards sea; very  
stony clay, oily and hard; a fine, dwarfish  
species, grey-leaved, compact - 1-3 ft never  
more; very spiny & the very devil to dig!;  
several seedlings collected with roots intact.

47. *Orchis* sp. (subgenus *Orchis*); <sup>species</sup> tuberos  
with unspotted leaves; in really sopping-  
wet moss in 'wet flush' at base of Pt. de  
Revellata; fairly open, west-facing slope but  
a little shaded by rocks behind; growing in  
association with 48, 49, 50; a small-growing  
species, not in flower.

48. *Romulea* sp. Growing with above;  
not in flower; seed  
capsules in semi-mature state.

49. Bulbous Monocotyledon. As above; a few thready leaves, narrowly lingulate, 2-3 in. long; little peary bulb only about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. diam.; enclosed in a mass of old tunics, the whole being about 1 in. long; tunics reticulate, the fibres being very coarse; not in flower; no sign of capsules etc.

50. Bulb. Another distinct species growing with above three; leaves almost identical to 49 but bulb absolutely distinct - only a thin, membranous covering; pure white beneath; up to 1 in. in diameter; not in flower and no seed, etc. evident; may be *Knuthogalum*?

51. Silene sp.? Probably a *Silene* but no flowers or old capsules; looks interesting growing here & there in the rock crevices in the most parched, sunny places; very sandy, stony soil; a few collected.

52. Senecio leucanthemifolius Poir. ?

A sub-shrubby perennial occurring sporadically along the coast towards the Pte. de Revellata, in poor dry, stony soils; very beautiful masses of pure silvery-white pubescent foliage (very like Cineraria maritima (?)). Leaves much-dissected; up to 3 ft., usually less; a number of seedlings dug.

53. Sedum sp. Habitat as 54; a small, blue-grey leaved species which I cannot recollect seeing previously (S. andegavense, D.C. ?); not in flower.

54. Erodium cicutarium, Lamar., occurring in good numbers on the vertical and horizontal crevices right out on the exposed, wind-swept top of the Pte. de Revellata; not in flower; a few collected but difficult to dig; (if this can flower on the Revellata it will flower anywhere!!)

7th April, 1962 - Behind Pietranera to  
Acqualta; 2-6 miles  
north of Bastia.

55. Anemone hortensis (?) - very numerous  
throughout the area  
but always in north and east facing positions  
usually among shrubs, maquis or low herbage and  
grasses; plants collected growing in rich, heavy, very  
stony loam with much humus in light woodland.

56. Orchis papilionacea, L. - generally  
sporadic  
occurrence but very numerous at one place -  
uncultivated terracing among grasses in heavy  
clay containing a great many small stones; open  
position, dryish, on north-west facing hillside;  
300 ft. altitude; in flower.

57. Dianthus siculus Hed (?) - On vertical  
cliffs in  
narrow fissures; east-facing position; 450 ft.;  
not in flower; seed capsules verdant; a few  
seedlings as well as mature plants located.

58. *Oxalis provincialis*, Balb. - plants <sup>growing</sup>  
on very shady bank in cushions of moss and  
Selaginella over sopping clay on fairly steep  
rock face down which water was seeping  
continually; north-east facing position; 600  
ft. altitude; in flower - all cream forms;

59. *Cyclamen neapolitanum*, Ten.

selected leaf  
forms only.  
Numerous throughout all collecting areas -  
often with *C. repandum*; north-east facing bank,  
very shady; among grasses etc. in pine leaf soil.



8th April, 1962 - Erbalunga, northwards  
& towards Castello

60. *Ophrys sphegodes*, Miller - A very few only  
located; dry

sandy, very stony clay in short grass - well  
grazed; open position slightly shaded during  
late afternoon; just above sea level; one  
specimen in flower.

61. *Gladiolus byzantinus*, Miller? - Same  
situation

as above; very hard stony clay; open to sun  
all day; not in flower.

62. *Scirpus* sp. ? - South-east facing  
bank towards Castello;  
among *Cistus* bushes with grasses, etc in hard stony,  
clay; well-grazed - growing up in at *Cistus*' roots;  
fairly numerous not in flower; 200 ft. altitude.

10th April, 1962 - Pointe de la Parata  
direction; 4-5 miles  
South-west Ajaccio

63. Serapias lingua, L. - Gimson lip.

Very  
numerous; in granite gravel and sand admixed  
with solid clay - just drying out with sparse  
grasses and annual meadow vegetation among  
Cistus; open, flat position just above sea  
level; in flower.

64. Serapias lingua, L. - Camme-pink lip

as above; one of the numerous distinct variations

65. Serapias neglecta, De Not. - A very few  
only located  
- two only dug; situation, etc. as above.

66. Serapias cordigera, L. - Growing  
in rather  
denser 'maquis' than above; on steep slope

among cistus, lavender, etc., in almost pure granite gravel with a little clay evident; slope facing almost due south - just drying; in flower.

67. Sesapias lingua, L. - White lip. Situation etc., as above except that small colony was growing in fairly open position in red, sticky clay; in flower.

68. Romulea sp. - Sea level; gravelly clay - (atrorivulacea?) very dry and hard - among cistus on sea shore but a few yards above high-tide level; not in flower but seed capsules evident; may be *R. reghuani* but capsule looks slightly different from those already encountered.

69. Romulea jordanii, Begunat (?) - Very numerous but in one locality only, favouring a much moister position than 68 although the two distinct species overlapped frequently; among grasses in the short, sea-washed turf and growing both in the wide, flat clearings

and right in to the bases of the  
surrounding Cistus-scrub; certainly a  
species not so far encountered and the most  
robust yet seen;

11th April, 1962. - Monte Sabaró

70. - *Setopias lingua*, L. - Buff lip. - large colony

among *Cistus*; heavy, stony clay - very dry; fairly steep west-facing slope - ft.; among grasses in shady position; in flower.

La Parata

71. *Setopias neglecta* X *cordigera*?

Fairly large colony; among *Cistus* bushes in a single open clearing growing in fairly moist turf; by far the most superb of the orchids so far encountered; obviously have some *S. cordigera* blood - stem bases more or less speckled with crimson; variable in colour of lip from crimson through brick shades and changes to buff but every one a magnificent thing; in flower; herbarium specimens collected.

72. Silene sp. (cosica, De Candolle)

Growing right out on the rocky seaward slopes of the Pointe de la Parata; same location as 73 but the two seldom occurring together; often growing in profusion among the rocks; a pleasant little thing with 'campion' flowers of pink varying in intensity from bluish to deepish rose; comparatively large in comparison with the prostrate habit and little grey-green leaves.

73. Matthiola truncipitata, R. Br.

JAMES C. ARCHIBALD

CORSICAN PLANT-COLLECTION, MARCH - APRIL, 1962.

ABRIDGED FIELD-NOTES

PORTO. (granite area)

28th March, 1962. North-facing side valley below Capo d'Orto ; woodland to maquis.

I. Aroid. 300ft. ; numerous over whole area but always among granite boulders growing upward through the humus-filled crevices ; either open or shady situation ; both leaves and flowers variable - latter in the amount of mahogany 'varnishing' on the top of spathe ; 3-4 in. in height ; cream-green striped pale-green to mahogany-red.

2. Helleborus argutifolius. 500ft. but occurring from sea-level upwards ; in many situations but obviously liking some moisture if not always shade.

3. Allium triquetrum, (A. pendulinum, Tenore.) In many situations but usually with some moisture ; not in flower (see I8).

4. Muscari comosum. 200 ft. but occurring fairly frequently throughout the area ; usually in rich, heavy, stoney soil ; not in flower when collected - later identified (see 39).

5. Orchis provincialis, Balb. (?). 200ft. in fairly dense, dappled shade among Cistus, Erica and Genista ; rich, heavy humus overlying stoney sub-soil ; not in flower.

29th March, 1962. Towards mouth of River Porto and southwards towards Piana.

6. Cistus villosus, L. A few collected - one of the main constituents of the maquis.

7. Arum pictum, L.f. Growing in almost pure sand, but this rich in alluvial material, among Arbutus thickets in bed of Porto river at sea level ; must be water-covered at times during winter ; not in flower.

8. Serapias sp. About 100 ft. on steep, north-facing slope above mouth of Porto ; among Cistus, etc. with mosses and grasses in damp rich but stony soil ; not in flower.

9. Orchis provincialis ? As above but generally in wetter, shadier places. not in flower ; abundant in a few areas.

10. Romulea sp. 200ft. above road towards Piana ; with grasses, etc in crevices and pockets of sandy, stoney humus between granite slabs ; rocky, east-facing bank ; not in flower.

II. Bulbous plant. A few in similar situation to above ; one or two thready leaves up to 4 in. long ; not in flower - may be Leucojum roseum?

12. Muscari comosum. As above ; not in flower so unidentified when collected.

30th March, 1962. Steep, north-west-facing slope of granite slabs covered with sparse maquis near mouth of river Porto towards Piana.

13. Serapias sp. 100 ft.; shady ledge among granite boulders ; with grasses and mosses among Cistus roots in moist, gritty, almost peaty soil ; not in flower.

14. Bulb. Among grasses in north and west-facing rock crevices ; not in flower - no indication of seed-capsules, etc. ; may be same as II.

15. *Pancreatium illyricum*, L. A few bulbs located ; always growing singly far apart from one another in shady pockets of damp leafsoil up to 1 ft. under the surface, often wedged under pices of granite ; north-facing ; 50-100 ft.; not in flower - just appearing above ground.
16. *Romulea* sp. 50-100ft. ; west-facing crevices - very narrow and filled with gritty humus - on granite boulders at about 75° angle ; open situation ; not in flower.
- 30th March, 1962. Northern side Porto gorge below Ota.
17. *Serapias* sp. South-facing slope at about 500 ft. ; in heavy, clayey sand dry and hard ; among *Cistus*, *Erica* and *Cytisus* ; not in flower.
18. *Allium pendulinum*, Tenore. Abundant in many places ; flowering in very wet situation by a stream ; a very charming species rather better than *A. triquetrum* and certainly worth growing.
19. *Romulea* sp. East-facing bank of granite boulders at 750ft.; first located in rock crevices in gritty sand but best corms found later growing by road-side in sand, actually beneath the tar-surfacing, through which leaves had pushed ; not in flower but semi-ripe capsules evident ; *R. requienii* ?
- 31st March, 1962. S.E. facing slope below la Pianetta opposite Capo d'Orto.
20. *Romulea* sp. 300 ft. ; fairly rich, well-drained soil in rock-pockets and crevices ; not in flower.
21. Bulb. Same situation as above but generally in much more shaded positions actually beneath the overhang of boulders; not in flower ; may be same as II and I4.
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22. *Romulea* sp. (*R. revelieri* ?). 600 ft.; facing due east among the roots of a Sweet Chestnut on a gentle bank of hard, dry, granite sand and clay ; seed-capsules well developed but two specimens in flower beneath a carpet of leaves (so may not be typical) ; very small-flowered but rather charming ; inner segments white to pale-violet to yellow at base with violet median vein ; outer segments greenish white, black-violet vein ; exterior pale-green ; anthers deep yellow ; flower only  $\frac{1}{4}$  in across but leaves 6 in. - though these may not be so long earlier in the year.
23. *Rosmarinus officinalis* form. One plant only (in fact the only plant of Rosemary seen in this granite area), draping in a 20 ft. cascade down a vertical cliff of red granite ; E.-facing but in sun until late afternoon ; very distinct in both its needle-like leaves and habit - absolutely prostrate where it reached the ground and rooting all along the wiry stems when in contact with the soil ; the habit may not be preserved in cultivation but it is certainly worth trying.
24. *Dianthus* sp. (*D. siculus* ?). Same vertical cliffs as above ; as far as last years seed-capsules show - stems radiating to about 9 in. from a central tight clump of grassy, green leaves ; virtually impossible to dig, growing in razor-thin fissures ; only two seedling located;
25. Dicotyledon - cliff plant. (not distributed - failed to travel).
- 26, 27, 28 and 29. *Sedum* spp. Boulder slide in shallow pockets (only  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep in some instances) on the granite boulders among mosses, lichens and *Polypodium* roots ; 26 and 27 generally preferred shadier situations 28 may be annual - probably *S. caeruleum* ; others look perennial ; none in flower. rs



30. Romulea sp. Probably same as 22 ; on opposite side of valley ; very stony sandy soil among sparse grasses ; dappled shade on steep, west-facing slope ; not in flower ; a few capsules evident.

CALVI 2nd April, 1962 Coastline between Calvi and Pointe de Revellata.

31. Romulea requienii, Parl. (?). At sea level in very hard, very dry gravel among low coastal maquis of Cistus, Lavandula, etc. in open grassy patches ; one specimen in flower - most bearing seed ; flower 1 in. across with broad segments ; deep-violet ; yellow anthers ; leaves more or less prostrate, usually 3 in. long ; stem only developing with capsule.

32. Serapias lingua, L. Situation as above ; one specimen in flower ; very numerous over whole area.

33. Romulea sp. May be same as 31 but leaves generally fewer and longer ; heavy clay, fairly rich in humus, overlaid with gravel and marble chippings ; slightly calcareous conditions ; not in flower but capsules evident.

34. Allium sp. Same situation as above ; a few only in one stony pocket ; not in flower.

35. Orchis morio, L. Among grasses under Cistus ; situation as above ; most in flower - very numerous - several distinct variations apparent.

36. Bulb. As above but preferring more saxatile positions in crevices among rock-slabs ; not in flower ; may be same as 11, 14 and 21.

33, 34, 35 and 36 all more or less in association among grasses under Cistus in heavy loam pockets overlaid with gravel between slabs of hard limestone and marble.

37. Allium sp. Base of Pointe de Revellata ; pockets of extremely rich soil, composed almost solely of decomposed rabbit-droppings and decaying vegetable matter, between rock slabs ; forming mats of bulbs along with a few Romuleas and 38 ; rather shady north-east-facing crevices and pockets.

38. Leucojum roseum, Martin. (?). As above ; generally preferring shadier places - best clumps actually under overhang of rocks ; not in flower - no capsules evident.

4th April, 1962. Area to east of Calvi, along coast inland towards Bonifato valley.

39. Muscari comosum. Occurring in all areas so far but only in flower here ; among Cistus scrub in open pasture ; rich, heavy clay ; bulbs growing very deeply.

40. Serapias sp. As above ; not in flower ; sea level.

41. Romulea sp. 100 ft. ; meadow ; good, heavy clay but with numerous stones under which corms usually lay ; in association with grasses clovers, etc. ; very numerous - almost forming a turf on its own in places ; not in flower - seed capsules evident.

42. Labiate. Situation as above ; a rather charming, dwarf meadow plant with a cluster of fair-sized flowers of clear, pale, sky-blue ; one or two roots collected.

43. Gagea sp. (?) Probably not a Gagea ; a few dug while collecting 44 ; same situation as following ; not in flower.

44. Ornithogalum exscapum, Ten. One location only ; just north of entrance to Bonifato valley, 150 ft. above sea level ; on bank facing due north-east at 45° angle, receiving sunlight filtered down through sparse maquis ; fairly numerous down the length of a single rock-slab, about 100 yds. long, in soil pockets, but mostly congregated at the base of the rock in sopping-wet clay among fist-

44. Ornithogalum exscapum (cont.) → sized granite rocks with numerous plants of a *Bellis* sp., grasses, etc. all bedded in moss a most exquisite little plant with one to four thready leaves, up to 4 in. long lying along the ground and a very short stem of an inch or less bearing one to five large, 'Snowdrop' flowers about 1 in. or more across; pure-white more or less pencilled delicately with green externally.

45. Sedum caeruleum, Vahl. (?). Location as above; forming bright masses of scarlet leaves in the drier shallow pockets on the rock slab among lichens and mosses.

5th April, 1962. Pointe de Revellata - exposed promontory projecting into sea

46. Genista sp. (*G. scorpius*, D.C. (?)?) A fine, very spiny, dwarf shrub but failed to travel satisfactorily - not distributed.

47. Orchis sp. Tuberos sp. (Subgenus *Orchis*); unspotted leaves; in sopping-wet moss in gully at base of Pte. de Revellata; open, west-facing location; growing in association with 48, 49 and 50; not in flower.

48. Romulea sp. Habitat as above; not in flower; seed capsules evident.

49. Bulb. Habitat as above; few thready leaves, narrowly ligulate, 2-3 in. long; little pearly bulb enclosed in a mass of the old, coarsely reticulate fibres of previous years tunics; not in flower.

50. Bulb. Quite distinct from above; though leaves practically identical; larger rounder bulb with only a thin, membranous covering; habitat as above; *Ornithogalum*, *Hyacinthus* sp.?; not in flower.

47, 48, 49 and 50 all growing intermixed in a mossy 'flush' with water continually percolating through it.

51. Silene sp. (?). Saxatile species, growing in rock crevices in dry sunny places; very sandy stony soil; may be of little importance; a few only collected; not in flower.

52.  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~, Senecio leucanthemifolius, Poir. Sub-shrubby perennial; 1-2 ft.; much-dissected leaves of grey-white; one of the most arresting of the silver-leaved species encountered; poor, sandy soil along the coasts.

53. Sedum sp. Habitat as 54; a pleasant, little blue-grey leaved species; a few collected; not in flower.

54. Erodium corsicum, Leman. Exposed, wind-swept top of Pointe de Revellata; growing in rock crevices both vertical and on the flat; not in flower.

#### BASTIA.

7th April, 1962. Behind Pietranera to Acqualta, 2-6 miles north of Bastia.

55. Anemone hortensis. Numerous throughout the area; always in north and east-facing positions usually among shrubs or low herbage and grasses; plants collected - pale blue and mauve forms, growing in heavy stony loam with much leafmould in light woodland; a delightful plant; up to 9 in.

56. Orchid papilionacea, L. Of generally sporadic occurrence; numerous in one place - uncultivated terracing in turf; heavy clay containing a great many small stones; open, very dry position on west-facing hillside; 300 ft

57. Dianthus siculus, Presl. (?) 450 ft. altitude; vertical cliffs below Acqualta; narrow fissures; east-facing position; not in flower.

58. Orchis provincialis, Balb. 600 ft. altitude; on very shady bank, facing north-east, in cushions of moss and selaginella over soaking clay on rock-face down which water

58. (cont.) was continually percolating ; north-east-facing position ; 600 ft altitude ; in flower - all cream forms.

59. Cyclamen neapolitanum, Ten. Very shady, n-east-facing bank in pure leaf-soil, among grasses ; selected leaf-forms only collected.

8th April, 1962. - Erbalunga, northwards towards Cap Corse and towards Castello.

60. Ohprys sphegodes, Miller. Dry, dandy, very stony clay among short grasses a very small number collected ; open position just above sea-level.

61. Gladiolus sp. (G. byzantinus ?). Same situation as above, very hard stony clay, open to sun all day ; not in flower.

62. Serapias sp. S-E. - facing bank towards Castello among Cistus ; hard, stony clay, growing right in at Cistus roots ; fairly numerous ; not in flower.

10th April, 1962. - Towards Pointe de la Parata, 4-5 miles south-west Ajaccio

63. Serapias lingua, L., Crimson lip. In granite gravel and sand, admixed with solid clay, just drying out ; with sparse grasses, etc. among Cistus.

64. Serapias lingua, L., Carmine-pink lip. Habitat as above.

65. Serapias neglecta, de Not. A very few only located - two only dug ; habitat as above.

66. Serapias cordigera, L. In rather denser maquis than above ; on steep slope among Cistus, lavender, etc. in almost pure granite gravel with a little clay ; facing due south ; just drying out.

67. Serapias lingua, L., White lip. Situation as above but large colony growing in red, sticky clay only.

68. Romulea atrovioacea ? Sea level on shore ; very hard and dry gravelly clay ; not in flower but capsules mature ; may possibly be R. requienii but seems distinct.

69. Romulea jordani, Beguinot, ? Numerous but in one locality only ; favouring much moister position than above ; among grasses in short sea-washed turf and growing both in the wide flat clearings and right in at the roots of the surrounding Cistus ; almost definitely a species not so far encountered and the most robust yet seen ; not in flower but capsules evident ; identity uncertain but is most likely to be R. jordani.

11th April, 1962. - Ajaccio - Monte Salrio.

70. Serapias lingua, L., Buff lip. One large colony ; among Cistus in heavy stony clay ; very dry ; fairly steep west-facing slope ; shady position.

11th April, 1962. - Pointe de la Parata

71. Serapias neglecta X cordigera. One fairly large colony ; among Cistus in moist turf ; by far the most superb of the orchids so far collected ; variable in the colour of the lip from crimson through brick shades and oranges to buff but everyone a magnificent thing ; a few collected.

72. Silene sp. (S. corsica ?) Right out on the rocky seaward slopes of the Parata ; same location as 73 but the two never overlapping ; a pleasant little plant with comparatively large 'Campion' flowers in pink, varying in intensity from blush to deepish rose, over a prostrate mat of little grey-green leaves.

73. Matthiola tricuspidata, R. Br. East-facing sea-cliffs of hard-baked granitic scree bound together by heavy clay ; slope of 60 - 75 degree angle ; a very small number of seedlings only collected.

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CORSICA, 1962.

I can report a fairly satisfactory trip in spite of the fact that the year chosen was an unfortunate one. Little rain had been experienced on the island during the winter and the 'mistral' had blown extremely hard for prolonged periods with the result that the season was both early and late : Romuleas were well past and those coming later had failed to produce flowers through lack of the necessary moisture ; the orchids which should have been at their best during the latter part of my visit were frequently so much retarded that flowering had been made impossible. In almost all instances the leaves of the species collected, their tips much blackened as a result of the prolonged exposure to the dry, cold winds, were already yellowing and dying-back. While the tendency to dormancy in most instances should aid acclimatisation greatly, it made collection an extremely difficult task, especially in the case of the Romuleas. While the season was a difficult one, the main enemy was time : the time spent in locating plants prior to digging them prevented me from covering nearly as much ground as had been hoped.

However, a good number of collectings of Romulea spp. were made and these will, I think, contain several distinct species, although exact identification was, of course, impossible when the species in question was not in flower. In this respect, specimens of most numbers will be grown at Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden and identification will be undertaken by them as soon as flowering in cultivation takes place. The R.B.G., Edinburgh, are also handling the identification of the herbarium specimens collected. Any alterations to the names given in the field-notes and the names of any species subsequently identified will be posted to the subscribers concerned. I am especially pleased to have collected the extremely fine little Onithogalum exscapum (44) and at least one specimen of this has gone out to all subscribers expressing an interest in bulbs. Unfortunately, as I have said, time prevented me from covering as much ground as I had hoped to and perhaps the most annoying result of this was that I was unable to visit the recorded localities of Leucojum ~~xxxxxx~~ longifolium, which I failed completely to locate elsewhere. I think that 38 is fairly definitely L. roseum and this may crop up under II, I4, 2I or 36, all of which should provide a rather interesting 'lucky-dip', the identities of which, I should not like to commit myself upon. In fact the following numbers should provide a very substantial increase on the species named in the field-notes when they do flower in cultivation and I should appreciate if any recipient of these lets me know what materialises, if his specimen flowers before he has received notification of the identity : II, I4, 2I, 36, 38, 49, 50; and the following Romulea spp. : IO, I6, I9, 30, 33, 4I, 48, 68, 69.

May I ask subscribers to use my name and number should they have occasion to exhibit, exchange, send seed to a seed distribution, etc. of any of species received from this collection. For instance, number I6 in the field-notes should be referred to as Romulea sp., Archibald I6. This is solely to avoid any confusion which may arise and it especially necessary in the case of unidentified or doubtfully named species.

May I thank my thirty subscribers for their valuable support without which this small trip would have been impossible. I hope that I may have brought back some plants of interest to you and that, although there were a very great many species which I was unable to collect, you will consider that my short stay on the island of Corsica has been a worthwhile one. I trust that I may have the opportunity to collect abroad on your behalf at some time in the future and renew my thanks for your encouragement and support in this, my first essay at 'professional' plant-collection.

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