

A NEW VARIETY OF *ERYTHRONIUM CITRINUM* (LILIACEAE) FROM THE
SCOTT MOUNTAINS OF NORTHWEST CALIFORNIA

James R. Shevock

Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco,
California 94118-4599 U.S.A.

&

Geraldine A. Allen

Department of Biology, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia,
V8W 2Y2, CANADA

ABSTRACT

A new variety of *Erythronium citrinum* S. Watson, the var. *roderickii*, is described from ultrabasic soils in the Scott Mountains, Trinity River drainage, northwest California. It differs from typical *E. citrinum* in having pink to purplish anthers and a brighter yellow zone at the base of the tepals.

KEY WORDS: Liliaceae, taxonomy, *Erythronium*, California

INTRODUCTION

In the course of our study of *Erythronium* for the Jepson Manual Project, a number of interesting collections and field observations dealing with range extensions and potential new taxa have been brought to our attention (Shevock, Bartel, & Allen 1990). The new variety described herein has been known to bulb specialist Wayne Roderick since 1961. In the spring of 1991, Roderick collected herbarium specimens and sent them to the senior author for a more detailed study. We have concluded that this entity is indeed worthy of recognition and we formally describe it here.

TAXONOMY

Erythronium citrinum S. Watson var. *roderickii* Shevock & Allen var. *nov.* TYPE: UNITED STATES. California: Trinity Co., along California Highway 3, adjacent to Scott Mountain Creek, Trinity River drainage, NE facing slopes on ultrabasic (serpentine) soils, mixed conifer forest, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, T39N, R7W, sect. 15 NW1/4. MDB&M., 4000 ft. (1220 m), 3 May 1991, *Wayne Roderick s.n.* (HOLOTYPE: CAS; Isotypes: JEPS,K,MO,NY,OSC,RSA,UVIC,US).

Tepalis albis, differt a *Erythronium citrinum* S. Wats. var. *citrinum* basibus aureoribus; antheris roseis vel purpureis.

Bulb 3-6 cm long, slender. Leaves 2, strongly mottled, 8-30 mm wide, 5.5-16 cm long, lanceolate to narrowly ovate. Scapes 7.5-16.5 cm tall; flowers 1(-2). Perianth segments recurved, lanceolate, acute to acuminate, 20-35 mm long, 5-8(-10) mm wide, white, fading pinkish after anthesis, with a 5-7 mm long golden yellow zone at base (darker yellow than the typical variety): inner perianth segments with saclike folds at base. Stamens unequal in two series, filaments 8-10 and 10-12 mm long, slender, anthers pink to purple, drying reddish brown, 3-5 mm long. Style clavate, 6-9 mm long, white to cream colored, occasionally tinged pinkish, stigma entire to short lobed, the lobes < 0.5 mm long. Capsules obovoid, 1.5-3.0 cm long.

Specimens examined. UNITED STATES. California: Trinity Co.: from the type locality, (specimen in fruit), 28 May 1991, *Linda Barker 2012* (CAS); Bear Creek Trail, approximately 1 mile W of California Highway 3 near boundary of Trinity Alps Wilderness, T39N, R7W, SE1/4 NW1/4 section 34, (specimen in fruit), 9 June 1991, *Wayne Steffes s.n.* (CAS).

This *Erythronium* first came to our attention in May 1991, although it has been in very limited cultivation since the mid 1970's. We are pleased to name this variety for its discoverer, the noted horticulturist Wayne Roderick, who specializes in California bulbs (Wolf 1986). We propose the vernacular name be Scott Mountains fawn lily.

The Klamath Mountains of northwest California and southwest Oregon contain at least six taxa of *Erythronium*, and are a center of diversity for the genus (Applegate 1935). *Erythronium citrinum* var. *roderickii* is known at present from only three localities, and appears to be a relatively rare localized endemic of this region. There is a high likelihood that continued field work on serpentine soils in the Scott Mountains will yield additional occurrences.

The origins of *Erythronium citrinum* var. *roderickii* are problematic. In most aspects it closely resembles typical *E. citrinum*. However, the anther color suggests the possibility of past hybridization between the cream anthered *E. citrinum* and a purple anthered species, the most likely candidate being *E.*

hendersonii S. Watson. Both typical *E. citrinum* and *E. hendersonii* occur farther north in the Klamath Mountains (Klamath River drainage), and no other *Erythronium* species is currently found in close proximity to *E. citrinum* var. *roderickii*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank Dr. Barbara Ertter and Dr. James C. Hickman of the University and Jepson Herbaria respectively at the University of California in Berkeley, for reviewing this paper. Special thanks to Linda Barker (former forest botanist, Klamath National Forest) and Julie Nelson, forest botanist, Shasta-Trinity National Forest for field observations and specimens; and to Wayne Steffes who provided the specimen from Bear Creek and also color slides. We also thank Wayne Roderick for sharing his knowledge of this *Erythronium* with us.

LITERATURE CITED

- Applegate, E.I. 1935. The genus *Erythronium*: a taxonomic and distributional study of western North American species. *Madroño* 3:58-113.
- Shevock, J.R., Bartel, J.A., & G.A. Allen. 1990. Distribution, ecology, and taxonomy of *Erythronium* (Liliaceae) in the Sierra Nevada of California. *Madroño* 37:261-273.
- Wolf, M.R. 1986. Wayne Roderick, horticulturist [New California Native Plant Society Fellow. 1985]. *Fremontia* 14:29.