

Antirrhinum meonanthum

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New Crop

Hort 5051

May 4, 2005

Taxonomy

- *Antirrhinum meonanthum* Hoffmans & Link
- Synonym: *A. ambiguum* (basionym: *A. graniticum* Rothm. subsp. *ambiguum*)
- Basionym for *A. meonanthum* subsp *onubensis*: *A. onubense* and *A. graniticum* subsp. *onubensis*
- No common names found
- Scrophulariaceae



Geographic Distribution

- Continents: Europe
- Countries: Spain, Portugal
- Regions: Central & NW Spain, N Portugal, also found E Central Spain in the Sierra de Pe-a de Francia
- Latitude: 41°N to 43 °N
- Altitude: ?
- Climatic conditions: Mediterranean – cool to warmer rainy winters and cool to hot (dry) sunny summers
- No mention of naturalizing or invasiveness. *A. majus* is only species naturalized in North Am.

Native Habitat



- Probably thrives in warmer, sunnier and drier parts of Central and Northern Spain and Portugal
- Sunny sites with deep, well-drained soil
- Plant community: thickets (dense, bushes/small trees) and steppes (dry, level, grass-covered, treeless)

Taxonomic Description

- Herbaceous perennial “shrub”
- Upright, 50-100 cm, ~2-3.5’
- Fibrous roots, no underground storage organs
- Leaves: alternate, lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, glabrous
- Flowers: bilabiate, pale yellow
- Season of bloom: summer (?)
- No mention of use by indigenous people or other uses.



Varieties/Cultivars on Market

- None

Propagation

- Either vegetative or seed
- Vegetative
 - “cuttings in early summer”
 - Stick cuttings in media (peat, vermiculite, etc)
 - Fairly high humidity and temp to promote rooting
- Seed
 - Unknown number of seeds per flower
 - No dormancy
 - Germ in mist house on media surface
 - 2 weeks to germ
 - Of 288 sown, 39 germinated = 14%

Crop Ideotype

- For sale as an annual bedding plant
- Flowers all summer
- Similar to that of *A. majus* having tall, medium and short varieties
- Interesting foliage
- Breed for hardiness and sell as perennial



Market Niche

- Target sales date:
 - early spring (and summer) for bedding plant market
 - All summer as perennial
- Holidays: Easter, Mother's Day
- Probably programmable, force year-round
- Compete with *A. majus*
- Can sell as new, exotic plant, from Spain, could use siesta (soft yellow) or fiesta (bright yellow)
- Major crop: cold tolerance/hardiness, early crop
- Seed germ needs improvement
- Competing as an annual bedding plant difficulties
- Very identifiable
- A few years for development, depending on germ and invasive testing

Cultural Requirements

- Winter hardiness: unknown
- Heat/drought tolerance: probably very good.
- Temp: ~25+°C (77°F) days, ~20°C (68°F) nights
- Light: high light, ~2000 fc, long days, photoperiod response unknown
- Nutrition: unknown, probably light feeding
- Soil: deep, well-drained
- PGRs: unknown but may need something to control height
- Container:
 - Annual: plug to 4 pack/6 pack or maybe 4"
 - Perennial: plug or cutting to 4" and then to gallon
- Disease: unknown for *A. meonanthum*, but leaf rust, mildews/molds, aphids and mites for *A. majus*
- No fungicide/insecticide recommendations

Production Schedule

- 2 weeks sow to germ
- Unknown flower bud initiation/development for seed or cuttings
- Unknown shipping
- Probably need a few PGR apps for height, unless breeding for shorter plants
- Target sales date:
 - Early spring (April) through early summer for bedding plant, including Mother's Day.
 - All summer for perennial

Genetic Improvement

- Annual:
 - Plant habit: shorter, more compact
 - Cold tolerance
 - Production time
 - Color (?)
 - Other interesting traits
- Perennial:
 - Plant habit
 - Hardiness
 - Other interesting traits



References

- Still, Steven M., 1994. Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants. Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL.
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- <http://utopia.knoware.nl/users/aart/flora/Scrophulariaceae/Antirrhinum/A.meonanthum.html>
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- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antirrhinum>