

Monocot Nursery
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Littleton, Somerton
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England, UK

The American Daffodil Soc. Inc.
3670 E. Powell Rd.
Lewis Centre
OH. 43035, U.S.A.

Re. *Narcissus cavanillesii*.

There was correspondence regarding the above noted plant in the November 12th, 2014 blog on whether this plant had two naturally occurring forms. Rafa Diez suggested it was the plant I had described but not formalised in the name of *N. cavanillesii* ssp. *mauretanicus*. This is correct. I was hoping to put this situation right in due course.

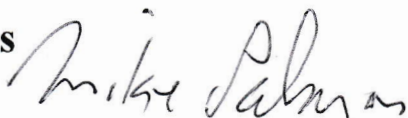
I have spent over 45 years writing a survey of the genus *Narcissus* in which all currently recognised species and naturally occurring hybrids are illustrated with water colour drawings, descriptions, distribution maps, chromosome numbers and in some instances DNA results. All will be revealed shortly on publication.

To return to the subject. The plants of *N. cavanillesii* from the south of Spain and those from northern Morocco are $2n = 14$ and those from central Morocco southwards are $2n = 21$ or 28 . Hence the variation in any hybrids involving other species. Enclosed are details as seen in my book. I apologise for the poor quality colour photocopies - my machine is getting rather old and decrepit, like myself!

It is now over 25 years since I gave a talk to the ADS and I had already done much of the work but it has taken a long time to tie up all the odds and ends. Due to ill health I no longer grow any bulbs, the nursery closed six years ago and any stock I had has been taken over by Kurt Vickery who is known to some of your members.

I have slides of virtually all the *Narcissus* species which you may care to have to include in your library, similarly a copy of the book in due course.

Regards



Michael Salmon

Section Braxireon (Raf.)Valdes

Syn. Section Tapeinanthus (Herbert)Traub

N. cavanillesii (Barra & Lopez) ssp. humilis M.Salmon

2n = 14

Syn. *Braxireon humile* (Cav.)Rafinesque Fl.Tellur. 4, 23(1836)

Carregnoa humilis (Cav.)Gay B. Soc. Bot. France 6:88(1859)

Narcissus humilis (Cav.)Traub in Plant Life 25:46 (1969)

Tapeinanthus humilis (Cav.)Herbert Amaryll. 190(1837)

Bulbs very small, 6 - 8mm diam, broadly pyriform with persistent neck formed of previous years leaves and basal spathes, freely offsetting and dividing. Tunics thinly shell-like, dark red-brown. Leaves 1 - 2, only produced by immature or non-flowering plants, more or less cylindrical in section, 1 - 1.5mm diam to 20cm long, deep green. Peduncle 2 - 8cm long, slender, green. Spathe short, translucent, very pale green, enclosing pedicel and lower part of ovary. Pedicel 5 - 12mm long. Flower solitary, horizontal to ascending, small, ca.1.7cm diam. Segs stellate to 1.2cm long x 2.5mm wide, narrowly spatulate to oblanceolate, apiculate or emarginate. Corona little more than 6 bifid scales at base of segs ca.1mm long. Stamens equal to segs or slightly exerted, very slender. Anthers small, pollen orange-yellow. Style exceeding stamens. Capsule to 5mm long, round. Seeds very small, black. Flowering September to December.

Habitat: Southern Spain, west, central and northwest Morocco. Open grassland, sandy littoral, sea level to 300m.

Distributed under Nos. S.F.239, S.F.260/2, S.F.318, S.L.644, S.L.367, S.L.446.

N. cavanillesii (Barra & Lopez) ssp. mauretanicus M.Salmon ssp.nova.

2n = 21,28

Latin Diag. *N. cavanillesii ssp.mauretanicus subspecies nova a subspecie humili bulbis maioribus elongatis tunica tenui pallidaque ornatis, propagula raro procreantibus, scapo longiore glaucoque flores numero 1-5 maiores brevibus ferenti differt.*

Bulb oblong to 3cm long x 1.2cm diam. producing few offsets. Tunics thin, few, golden brown. Leaf 1 only produced by immature or non-flowering plants, slender rush-like, glaucous-green, to 25cm long. Peduncle 8 - 12cm long, slender, glaucous green. Spathe membranous pale yellow-green, 1.5 - 2.5cm long, pale green, enclosing base of pedicels. Pedicels 1 - 3.5cm long, very slender, pale green. Flowers (1)2 - 4(5), ascending to upright - 2.8cm diam. Ovary small deep green. tube very short funnel shaped, 1 - 2mm long, greenish. Segs stellate, outward curving, to 2.5cm long x 0.6cm wide, spatulate, oblanceolate, apiculate or emarginate. Corona very short of six bifid scales ca 2mm long. Stamens shorter than segs, filis orange-yellow, anthers small, pollen orange-yellow. Style as long as segs or slightly exerted. Capsule oblong to 8mm long. Seeds round, black.

Flowering October - November.

Habitat: Morocco, Middle to western High Atlas, Anti Atlas, eastern Riff, Algeria. Rocky limestone hillsides, pockets and ledges on crags, sometimes among short maquis. 50 - 1000m.

Distributed under Nos. S.F.264, S.F.267, S.F.268, S.F.271.



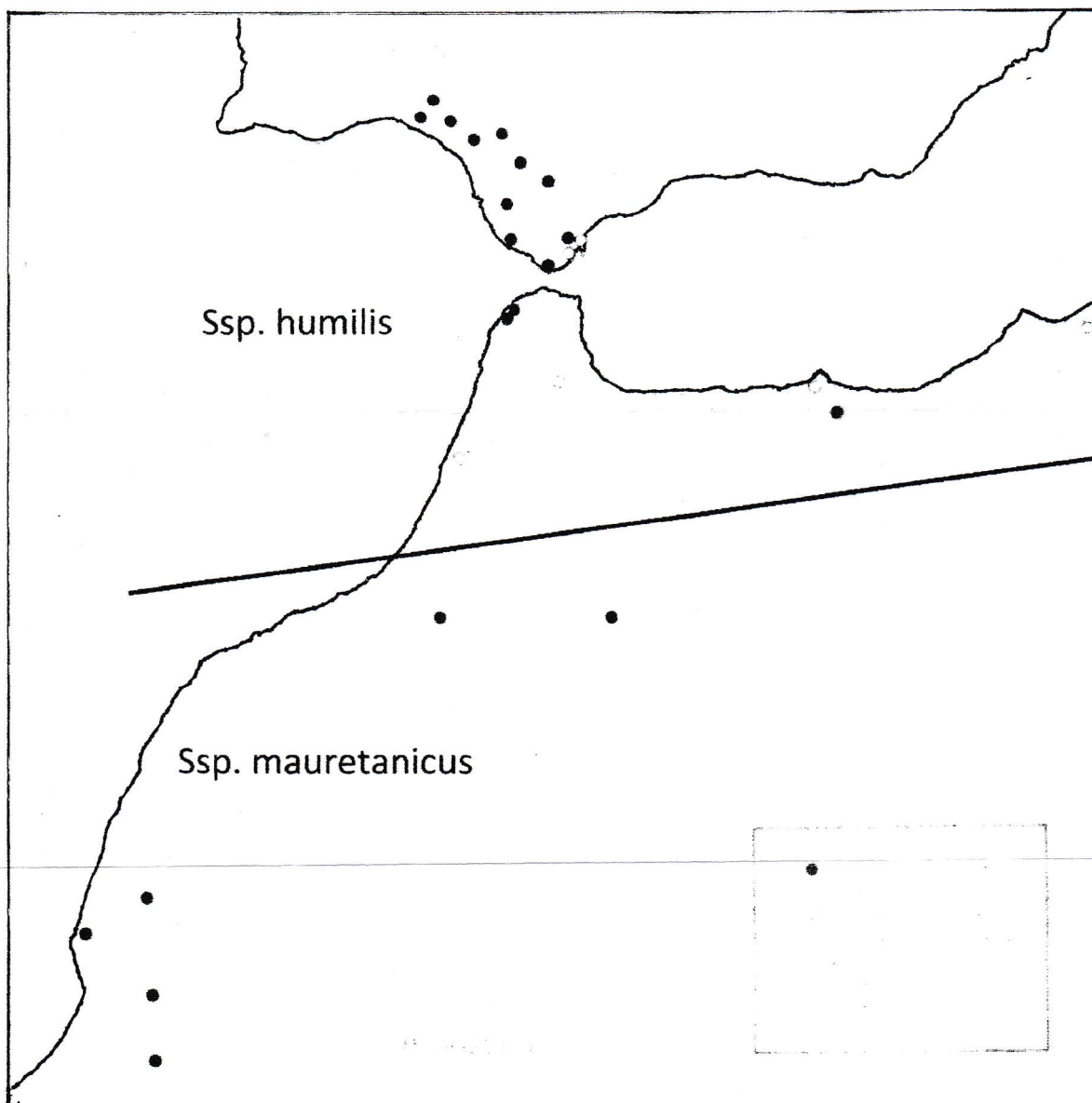
N. cavanillesii sbsp *humilis* MS 640

N. cavanillesii sbsp *mauretanicus* SF 267



Flowering October - November with vegetative prostrate stems. Stems to 1.5 x 0.5 cm wide. Corolla of 5 pointed segments to 1.5 cm long. Stamens to 1.5 cm long. The bright yellow style is 1.5 cm long. Sweetly scented.

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Subsection X Braxini Fdez.Casas Fontq.4:27(1983)

= Section Braxireon (Raf.)Valdes x Subsection Serotini L.

N. x perez-larae Font Quer in Bol.Soc.Esp.Hist.Nat.27:44(1927)

2n = ?

= N. cavanillesii Barra & Lopez x N. serotinus L.

Bulb similar to ssp. mauretanicus. Peduncle 5-10cm long, slender, green, more or less round. Leaf 1, 2 - 4cm at anthesis later to 25cm. Spathe slender to 2cm long, herbaceous, longer than pedicel. Pedicel very slender, pale green to 1.6cm long. Flower solitary, horizontal to ascending, to 1.5cm long x 3cm diam. Pale sulphur yellow. Tube 9mm long, narrow funnel shaped, pale lemon shaded green towards base. Segs unequal, widely spreading to reflexed, stellate. Outer segs ligulate to broadly elliptical, obtuse, inner oblanceolate, obtuse, apiculate to 1.5 x 0.5cm wide. Corona of 3 notched segments to 1mm long, pale yellow. Stamens to 7mm long, fils. upright, stout, yellow. Style equal to anthers. Sweetly scented. Flowering October - November, with sympatric parents. S. Spain, Morocco.