

IRIDACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *GLADIOLUS*

Gladiolus cataractarum Oberm., sp. nov., *G. microcarpo* affinis, sed planta glabra bracteis majoribus pedunculum et rhachim occultans differt.

Planta glabra robusta c. 700 mm alta. *Cormus* globosus parvus c. 30 mm diam. *Folia* c. 6, late ensiformia longe vaginantes acuminata ad 600 × 45 mm mollia. *Spica* erecta secunda c. 6–16-flora; bracteae longe vaginantes, pedunculum et rhachim occultans attenuatae c. 70 mm longae; bracteolae interiores c. 40–50 mm longae tubus perianthii cingentes. *Perianthium* c. 90 mm longum roseum; tubus strictus curvatus c. 40 mm longus; lobi superiores anguste obovati c. 45 mm longi 15 mm lati; lobi inferiores parum minori recurvati. *Stamina* et gynoecium typica. *Capsula* non vidi.

TYPE. — Transvaal, 2530 (Lydenburg): Lunsclip, on farm Waterval near Dullstroom (–AD) in wet grassy areas, *J. Krijt* in *PRE* 58472 (*PRE*, holo.), flowering Feb. 1981.

Tall, glabrous plants c. 700 mm tall when in flower. *Corm* c. 30 mm in diam, with old corms at the base. *Leaves* c. 6, broadly ensiform, acuminate, up to 600 × 45 mm, long-sheathing below, finely ribbed, thin. *Spike* secund, c. 6–16-flowered, peduncle and rhachis hidden by the long leafbases and sheathing bracts, which are attenuated above and c. 70 mm long; *Perianth* c. 90 mm long, rose-pink, the 3 upper lobes with a faint thin red medium stripe, the 3 lower with a distinct thin red stripe; perianth-tube curved, narrow, c. 40 mm long, expanding above into a spreading limb; 3 upper lobes narrowly obovate, c. 45 mm long, 15 mm wide; lower slightly obovate, c. 45 mm long, 15 mm wide; stamens and gynoecium typical. *Capsule* not seen. Fig. 13.

This beautiful species known so far only from the type locality, differs from typical *G. microcarpus* Lewis and its subspecies *italaense* Oberm. in being completely glabrous, in the large imbricate floral



FIG. 13.—*Gladiolus cataractarum* at the type locality. March 1981. Photo. S. P. Fourie (Transvaal Nature Conservation Department).

bracts and the larger leaves and flowers. From *G. varius* Bol. f. it can be easily distinguished by its very broad leaves and the large green floral bracts.