

IRIDACEAE

Watsonia latifolia Oberm. sp. nov., *W. merianae* Mill. affinis sed foliis latoribus floribus maioribus differt.

Cormus crassus fibrosus. *Folia* lanceolata vel lineari-lanceolata ad 70 cm longa ca 4–8 cm lata margine et nervis nec incrassatis. *Spica* simplex multiflora, spathae exteriorae 2 cm longae amplexicaulae; perianthium rubrum curvatum tubo basi angusto superiore ampliore.

NATAL.—Ngotshe district: near Ngome at the foot of bare granite slopes, in pockets of loose soil, in clumps, *Codd & Robertson* 6403 (PRE, holo., K, SRGH, iso.). Utrecht district: Donkerhoek, hillsides amongst rocks, sometimes seen in large colonies, *Devenish* 545 (PRE).

SWAZILAND.—Mbabane, *Nicholson* (PRE, 17691).

TRANVAAL.—Carolina, 4½ m. S.E. of The Brook, in rock crevices, *Codd* 9497 (PRE). Govt. Forestry Station near Vossmann's Beacon, *Mentzel* (PRE).

Plants 70–100 cm tall, gregarious. *Corm* thick about 6 cm in diam. covered with coarse fibres. *Leaves* 5–7 distichous, linear-lanceolate to lanceolate, 30–70 cm long, 4 cm wide or more, apex acute, base narrowed, sheathing, lamina flat, thin, fairly soft in texture, yellow-green, nerves and margin yellow, thin, not raised. *Spike* about 35 cm tall, simple, overtopping the leaves, many-flowered; the flowers situated fairly far apart; scape bracteate, sturdy; outer spathe valve ovate, about 2 cm long, apex acute, base amplexicaul; 2 inner lateral valves slightly smaller and narrower. *Perianth* red, curved, 6–8 cm long; tube with a basal erect narrow part about 2 cm long and a widened and arched part above it (where it is exerted from the spathe valves) about 2.5 cm long and 8 mm wide; lobes ascending or semi-spreading, lanceolate, about 2 cm long, apex apiculate; stamens situated dorsally with the filaments attached to the tube where it becomes wider, decurrent; anthers 8 mm long, attached near the base; the locules diverging below, reaching to the tips of the perianth lobes above; ovary with 8 biseriate ovules situated in the lower half of the locule; style filiform, stigmas bifid, fimbriate, falcate, overtopping the anthers when mature. *Capsule* and seeds not seen.

This handsome *Watsonia* was first given the name *W. latifolia* by N. E. Brown, but he did not publish it. The species is apparently restricted to the south eastern part of the Transvaal and the neighbouring districts of Natal and Swaziland. No other northern *Watsonia* has such broad leaves. Both Professor R. H. Compton and Mr. N. J. Devenish have found it a handsome garden plant and easy to cultivate.

***Watsonia watsonioides* (Bak.) Oberm. comb. nov., *Tritonia watsonioides* Bak., Handb. Irid. 195 (1892); Fl. Cap. 6: 127 (1896).** Type: Transvaal, Barberton, Saddleback Mt., Galpin 814 (K, syn., PRE, iso.!); Mts. of Swaziland, Thornecroft (*Wood* 4113: K, syn., NH, iso.!).

Watsonia flavida Bol., nom. nov. in Trans. Roy. Soc.S .A. 1: 162 (1909); Fl. Pl. Afr. Plate 296 (1928)

When Bolus transferred this species from *Tritonia* to *Watsonia*, he gave it the more appropriate but unnecessary name, *W. flavida* and it cannot be accepted according to the international rules of nomenclature. Although the flowers are usually cream to yellow in colour, Professor R. H. Compton observed one area of several square miles in the Mankaiana district in Swaziland (alt. 3500-4000 ft.) where a form with exclusively dark maroon flowers occurred. It is apparently confined to the south eastern Transvaal and Swaziland where it is very common and forms large clumps.

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