A New Subspecies of *Biarum davisii* Turrill from Turkey

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When collecting on Crete in April 1938 Peter Davis discovered *Biarum davisii*, perhaps the most attractive aroid in Europe, growing 'above and north-east of Sphakia, amid rocks and on semi-scree'. His collection consisted of dried leaves and fruits and a live tuber which, when grown on at Kew, flowered in the following November and was used by Turrill to complete the description of *B. davisii* that appeared in The Gardeners Chronicle (1938). In the paper Turrill noted that the new species, although showing no close relationships to any of the other members of genus, appeared to be distantly allied to *B. olivierii* Blume, a species from Egypt, Israel and Jordan. Since the original introduction *B. davisii* has remained in cultivation, and whilst never particularly common, has become a well known autumn flower amongst those who like something a little different. Additionally the Cretan plant has been well illustrated by Polunin (1980) and Rix (1981).

Until the 1960's it was assumed that the species was endemic to Crete, but then Turhan Baytop, of Istanbul University, made a collection of apparently the same taxon from Muğla in the extreme south-west of Turkey. Since then a number of collections have been made by both Turkish and British botanists and deposited in the herbaria at Kew, Izmir and Istanbul. I have had the opportunity to see all this material and in addition have studied the living plants at Kew and in Brian Mathew's collection. I have also cultivated both the Turkish and Cretan plants of the species. It has become clear that two taxa are involved, as was suggested by Mill (1984). The Turkish plant thus requires formal taxonomic recognition.

***Biarum davisii* subsp. *marmarisensis* Boyce, subsp. nov.**

A *Biaro davisii* subsp. *davisii* petiolis longioribus, venis folii laminae numerosioribus, spatha longiore, appendice spadicis longiore, zona staminifera spadicis longiore differt. Typus, S. W. Anatolia; C2 Muğla: d. Marmaris, Bozburun, Taşlica Köyü, T. Baytop *et al* (holotypus EGE 8796!; isotypus [spirit] K!)

Tuber + hemispherical, 2-3 cm diam. x 1-2.2 cm high. Leaf blades ovate-to obovate-elliptic, 4-6.5 x 1. 5-3 cm, apex obtuse, base shortly cuneate, margin slightly undulate; lateral veins 7-9 per side, petiole 7-9 cm. Inflorescence at ground level, peduncle 2-2.4 cm, spathe 7-8 cm; tube 2-2.5 cm, exterior whitish suffused purplish-brown, interior off-white, margins deeply connate; lamina 4-5.5 cm, strongly cucullate and curved forwards, pale green with faint purple mottling outside, margins strongly recurved, rim of throat dark brown to yellow; spadix 6.5-7.5 cm, slightly shorter than the spathe; appendix 3.5-5 cm x 0.5 mm, dull reddish-brown, dark red to purplish-red towards apex; sterile filaments absent. Staminate flower zone 15-16 mm long. Pistillate flower zone 1 mm long. Fruiting head borne at ground level, consisting of c. 15-20, 6-7 mm x 3.5-5 mm oblong-avoid ber-

ries, pale green, turning silvery-lilac when ripe, each containing 1 ovoid 3-4 mm diam. pale fawn, reticulate seed.

Key to separation of *B. davisii*

1. Spathe 5-6 cm long. Spadix appendix 3-3.5 cm x 2 mm thick. Staminate flower zone 8-10 mm long, sterile filaments usually present. Petioles 1.5-3 cm long, leaves with 3-5 veins per side. . . . **subsp. *davisii***

2. Spathe 7-8 cm long. Spadix appendix 3.5-5 cm x 0.5 mm thick. Staminate flower zone 15-16 mm long, sterile filaments never present. Petioles 7-9 cm long, leaves with 7-9 veins per side. . . . . **subsp. *marmarisensis***

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Fig. 1. *Barium davisii* subsp. *davisii.*