

IRIDACEAE

THE CORRECT CITATION OF *MONTBRETIA CROCOSMIIFLORA*

The name *Montbretia crocosmiiflora* is generally attributed to Lemoine ex E. Morren in *La Belgique Horticole* 31: 299 & t. 14 (1881). Dr M. P. de Vos also cited it in this form in her revision: The African genus *Crocasmia* Planchon, published in *Jl S. Afr. Bot.* 50,4: 497 (1984). However, Morren's publication is antedated by an unsigned note in the *Floral Magazine* of October 1881, t. 472, as noted by Dr P. J. Kosteljik in *The Plantsman* 5,4: 248 (1984).

On p. 287 of *La Belgique Horticole* 31, mention is made of the death of Gérard Calopin on 18 December 1881. The issue containing Morrens's description of *Montbretia crocosmiaeflora* must therefore have been published in the last days of December 1881 or in 1882, whereas the *Floral Magazine* is dated October 1881. I am not aware of any data indicating that this dating is incorrect.

The editors of the *Floral Magazine*, Burbidge and Dean, must be held responsible for the description

with Fitch's drawing. It therefore appears that the correct citation of the hybrid garden *Crocasmia* is *Crocasmia* × *crocosmiiflora* (Lemoine ex Burbidge & Dean) N.E. Br.

The plants shown in the drawings in *La Belgique Horticole* and in the *Floral Magazine* are very much alike; they could well belong to the same cultivar. However, it does not seem possible to assign a cultivar name to these plants. The firm of Lemoine at Nancy introduced the plant into commerce in 1882 (Lemoine, *J. Roy. Hort. Soc.* 25: 128–132, 1900–1901). Named selections have been sold from 1883 onwards.

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