

This is the plant referred to in the Journal of the Linnean Society (xiv. p. 319) as *Spiranthes brevifolia*, Chapm., which it is not, as we have since been able to prove by comparison with an authentically named specimen recently acquired for the Kew Herbarium. Mr Moseley informs us that he saw a considerable number of plants.

## IRIDEÆ.

***Sisyrinchium bermudiana*, Linn.**

*Sisyrinchium bermudiana*, Linn., Sp. Pl., ed. 1, p. 954, *pro parte (quoad β tantum)*; Hemsl. in Journ. Bot. 1884, p. 108.

*Sisyrinchium bermudiense*, *floribus parvis ex cærules et aureo mixtis. Iris phalangoides quorundam*, Pluk., Alm., p. 348; Phytogr., t. 61, fig. 2.

*Bermudiana iridis folio, fibrosâ radice*, Tournef., Inst. Rei Herb., p. 388, t. 108; Dill., Hort. Elth., p. 48, t. 41, fig. 48.

*Sisyrinchium iridioides*, Curtis, Bot. Mag., t. 94.

*Sisyrinchium bermudiana*, Mill., Abridg. Dict., ed. 6; Lamarck, Encycl. Méthod. Bot., i. p. 408; Redouté, Lil., t. 149.

*Sisyrinchium bermudiana*, var. 1, Baker in Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond., xvi. p. 117.

BERMUDAS.—Endemic. Spread all over the islands—*Lane*; *Rein*; *Lefroy*; *Moseley*.

On first seeing the Bermudan specimens of *Sisyrinchium* collected by Sir J. H. Lefroy and Mr Moseley, we suspected that they were specifically different from the plant commonly known as *Sisyrinchium bermudiana*, and after comparing them with numerous specimens from other countries, we were convinced that the Bermudan specimens belonged to a distinct species. Referring to the literature of the subject, this view was found to be supported by all the early authors who had actually seen the plant. Plukenet originally published it, and distinguished it from the common form in eastern North America, giving a figure of each. Dillenius (*Hortus Elthamensis*), who had opportunities of seeing them alive, followed Plukenet in keeping them distinct. Linnæus, who, it may be assumed, did not see the Bermudan plant, as there is no specimen in his herbarium, united the two under the name *Sisyrinchium bermudiana*. Miller, who knew them in a living state, seems to have been the first (1771) to restore the two forms to specific rank; and he was followed by Lamarck, who also knew them alive, and who more fully described the differences between the two. In 1789 Curtis figured (in the Botanical Magazine) the Bermudan species, concerning which he wrote thus:—"On comparing the present plant with the *Bermudiana graminea flore minore cæruleo* of Dillenius, both of which I have growing, and now in pots before me, the difference appears so striking that I am induced with him and Miller to consider them as distinct species; especially as, on a close examination, there appear characters sufficient to justify me in the opinion, which characters are not altered by culture." Unfortunately, Curtis gave it the new specific name *iridioides*. He was led to do this in consequence of Linnæus having made the Bermudan form the var.  $\beta$  of his composite or aggregate species; but he afterwards, when figuring the other form, *Sisyrin-*