

NARCISSUS HEDRAEANTHUS.

This little Narcissus was discovered more than a hundred years ago at Era de Fustal in the province of Jaén.

The bulb is small, ovoid, about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter. Each bulb carries one leaf, erect, rounded and linear; the leaves appear with the flowers. The flowering stem is short, often the flower is only an inch or so above the soil. It is borne horizontally, or ascending slightly and is up to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in length, inverted, cone-shaped, the perianth segments equalling the corona in length; the colour is rather pale sulphur-yellow. The style and anthers project beyond the corona and are turned upwards.

N. hedraeanthus was collected recently by Dr. P. H. Davis

and V. H. Heywood (in June, 1948 and again in 1952) in the Sierra de Cazorla. It was found growing in damp meadows, in pockets of soil on limestone outcrops, that is in the limestone zone of South East Spain. Subsequent investigation may lead to its inclusion in the *N. Bulbocodium* complex as a distinct sub-species. It is however distinguished by its sessile flowers—otherwise it is near *N. ssp. monophyllus* and *Romieuxii*, from these it differs by its smaller flowers, narrower mouth of the corona, and much broader perianth segments. A peculiar feature is the development of the flower stems which at first lie horizontally only just above the ground. Eventually the scape straightens out and curves so that the flowers are sometimes carried pointing slightly upwards, but not so much so as in *N. B. ssp. tananicus*.

This is an easier species to cultivate than some of the smaller Narcissi, but it is so small that it is decidedly a plant for the frame or alpine house. It would appear that there are several clonal forms in cultivation, for seed is seldom produced unless two bulbs of quite different collecting are crossed. It flowers fairly early—according to the season and the amount of protection afforded—from late December to February, or even March if the bulbs have been dried off in the previous summer.

C.C.M.



(See p. 55)

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