

b Th. 12/25/75 (Taylor). 1st + 2nd draft f. Jan 2/76

(24) Th. 1/1/76 (lines) (lines 1-3) (African violet)

Taylor Saintpaulia  
trop. Africa <essentially> stemless herb  
herb f. Gesneriaceae  
4 of ± 11 species T. lists 5

Gk Ionantha = violet-/flowered

hairy, long-stalked  
basal leaves . . form  
open rosette; flowers  
generally violet long-stalked  
few-clustered cymes, corolla {vertical:}  
w. short tube, lobes 2-lipped usambara  
fertile stamens 2, also 2 infertile  
fruit 2-valved oblong or  
globose capsule Baron(\*) Walter  
von Saint Paul discovered  
4th species: i.e. ionantha

“the orig <of the Afr.> or Usambara violets  
(essen. stemless etc as above)

basal rosette of nearly (\* / transpose ↗) 7  
round leaves <blooming continuously /  
all yr.> on hairy

stalks 1½-2½" long  
leaf blade shallowly toothed  
1½-3" L green above,  
darker, purplish beneath,  
covered with hairs of equal L.

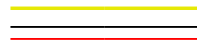
flowers 2-8 in wild form ± 1" w  
Tanga, near Zanzibar, Tangan  
yika. most hort forms derived  
from this species (differences  
of other varieties minor e.g.

leaves thinner, <also> appressed hairs  
of different lengths, under leaves

paler - except for the tailing species. useful for hanging baskets,  
species grotei 5-10" L blades coarsely toothed, basal heart shaped  
1-3½" in L. flowers 2-4 shorter shorter-stalked than bluish-v. lvs?

- 1 Open rosette flowering continually cyme
- 2 neither guess nor erasing eye
- 3 ion anta terminal blossom earliest  
pinked-white perfect-double veined
- 4 white-pink double-perfect ^ tree-of-life / [greenest leaf  
underside <thrifty> purpled <leaf> vein
- 5 leaf underside? purpled grown  
tempered <planter>
- 6 hair<->smoothèd bare a knot temperate  
tempered sanctum tho ð <no>
- 7 temperate planter-? sanctum / tho
- 8 ð land or violet spring brings

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- (6) hair-smoothèd bare / a knot planter
- (5) thrifty leaf underleaf purple grown
- 7
- 8



↳ better than large don't overcrowd  
N.B. var. countless (100's) count <summer/ + winter>  
culture: needs temperate moisture  
sunlight (don't soak ? sun-ete <but avoid/ direct + hot sun  
↳ small pot. Propagation division  
or cutting a thrifty leaf from the stem  
leaving part of the leafstalk ?

\* \* \*

## Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Saintpaulia, ionantha**

## African Violet

line 1: **Open rosette flowering continually cyme**  
 line 2: **neither guess nor erasing eye**  
 line 3: **ion anta terminal blossom earliest**  
 line 4: **pinked-white perfect-double veined tree-of-life greenest**  
 line 5: **hair-smoothèd bare a knot planter**  
 line 6: **thrifty leaf underleaf purple grown**  
 line 7: **temperate tempered sanctum tho no**  
 line 8: **land or violet spring brings**

12/25/75-1/2/76

line 1: **Open rosette flowering continually cyme**

Taylor, **Saintpaulia** (saint-paul'i-a). Very beautiful, tropical African, essentially stemless herbs of the family Gesneriaceae, 4 of the possibly 11 known species often grown for their handsome flowers. They are hairy plants with long-stalked basal leaves which form an open rosette. Flowers very showy, generally violet, in long-stalked, few-flowered clusters (cymes {> A broad, often flat-topped, branching flower cluster that blooms from the center toward the edges, and in which the main stalk or axis is always terminated by a flower}). Corolla with a short tube, its lobes beautifully 2-lipped. Fertile stamens 2; also there are 2 infertile ones. Fruit a 2-valved, oblong or globose capsule. {...}  
 CULTURE. African violets (they are, of course, not violets) make one of the most satisfactory of all house plants. Blooming nearly all the year (according to the var.), needing little space, and the average temperature and humidity of a living room suiting them reasonably well, it is no wonder that there are hundreds of vars. (some think thousands!) {...}. (Named for Baron Walter von Saint Paul, who discovered the fourth species.)

line 2: **neither guess nor erasing eye**

See Taylor line 1.

**guess nor erasing eye** < *Gesneriaceae*.

line 3: **ion anta terminal blossom earliest**

Taylor, **Saintpaulia** {see line 1} > **S. ionantha** {> Violet-flowered}. The original of the African or Usambara violets, and an essentially stemless plant, with a basal rosette of nearly round leaves on hairy stalks 1½-2½ in. long. Leaf blade shallowly toothed, 1½-3 in. long, green above, darker or even purplish beneath, covered with hairs of equal length. Flowers 2-8, violet in the wild form, about 1 in. wide. Capsule nearly globose. Tanga, near Zanzibar. Tanganyika. Most of the hort. forms are derived from this species. {Taylor includes an illustration of this species}.

**ion anta** < *ionantha*

See Taylor line 1.

line 4: **pinked-white perfect-double veined tree-of-life greenest**

{Taylor gives a list of some of the “innumerable varieties” of African violets giving their colors (including pink and white) and designating those that are double-flowered}.

line 5: **hair-smoothèd bare a knot planter**

Taylor, **Saintpaulia** {see line 1} > **S. grotei**. A trailing African violet, useful for hanging baskets. Leaves long-stalked, the stalks 5-10 inches long, the blades roundish, coarsely toothed, heart-shaped at the base, 1-3½ in. long, covered with long and short hairs. Flowers 2-4, shorter-stalked than the leaves, bluish-violet.

See Taylor line 3.

line 6: **thrifty leaf underleaf purple grown**

Taylor, **Saintpaulia** > CULTURE {see line 1} > *Propagation*. Division is easiest. But leaf cuttings are also easily made. Choose a thrifty leaf, cut it from the stem, leaving part (or none) of the leafstalk. Put the leaf blade (or leafstalk if you saved it) in moist sand or vermiculite (or in a tumbler of water) and put the cuttings in a warm place.

See Taylor, **S. ionantha** line 3.

line 7: **temperate tempered sanctum tho no**

See Taylor line 1.

line 8: **land or violet spring brings**