

{from page 21}

list #72

(15)

Taylor: Tra-des-cán-ti-a  
 Spiderwort [f. Com-  
 melinaceae (Spider-  
 wort or day-flower  
 f. 26 genera 600 species  
 mostly tropical, but  
comenlina + the  
 spiderwort also in  
 temperate zone]

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“Comenlina: weak  
 watery juiced, quickly  
 wilting herbs . . . jointed  
 stems, alternate  
 leaves without  
 marginal teeth . . .  
 quickly fading flowers  
 be to (blue) in those  
 below, solitary or  
 in small clusters  
 below which is a  
 boat-shaped <purplish> bract  
 or spathe. Flowers  
 irregular, the 3 sepals  
 often colored + joined  
Petals 3, two long-  
 clawed(\*) stamens 6,  
 3 infertile, fruit a  
 3-celled capsule  
 (\*) narrow basal part  
 of petal

b. W Aug 20/75

f. Tu Aug 26/75 (Zebrina etc)

John Tradescant / gardener to Charles I

var. bluish purple or pinkish / pointed both ends

Tradescantia fluminensis. Wandering

Jew. leaves <green> oval 2-2½" L. Flowers

white var. variegata white-striped

leaves, also yellow marked varieties

roots easily from cuttings or broken bits of stem . .

[i.e. C . . zebrina = Zebrina pendula, also

“bleeds called wandering Jew . . closely related

+ heals”] to T. fluminensis (a Brazilian plant

for but naturzd in U.S.) from which it

hanging differs in having the petals united

basket into a tube . . decumbent or prostrate . .

{vertical:} reddish purple flowers from between

Charleys 2 boat-shaped, unequal bracts

= police / var. quadricolor . . leaves striped

- watchmen green, white + red . . Zebrina, L for

of Chas I zebra referring to striped foliage

See notes p 5, 2/1/75

1 Trades scant aware is plentiful

cuttings <broken> stem bits bits

2 a <the> dayflower roots easily from

3 cuttings broken? stem bits bleed and <to>

bits root ? bleed come -H- ? uncoil

4 heal for hanging two night-blue / the third

East is 3-petals <2> heal

5 white the spathe hides over <above>

6 → healed boat-leaves leaves world wanders / wandering worlds

miscalled || creepingcharleys

7 creeping-charleys the closer a day's <(WS) → butt nearer>

8 red 3-petal-heart perpend <WS WS> zebrina etc

C. coelestis perennial up to 2 ft.

high but usually <half> sprawling Flowers

dark blue 1-in L

\* \* \*

(15) list #72 2nd draft <b> 8/24/75 (Zebrina etc) (p./22  
f 8/26/75

1

2

3 bleed uncoil East is ~~three~~ <3>

4 petals two <2> night-blue the third

5

6 healed boat-leaves wanderers<ing> worlds

7 creeping-charleys ~~the closer~~ <butt nearer> a day's

8



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Edited and transcribed by Jeffrey Twitchell-Waas.}

## Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Claw, Commelina, Commelinaceae, \*Lysimachia (L. Nummularia), Spiderwort, Zebrina**

*Century Dictionary (CD)*, **Charley**  
Onions, *A Shakespeare Glossary*, **perpend**

\*LZ, "Ferdinand"

line 1: **Trades scant aware is plentiful**  
 line 2: **the *dayflower* broken stem-bits root**  
 line 3: **bleed uncoil East is 3**  
 line 4: **petals 2 night-blue the third**  
 line 5: **white a spathe hides above**  
 line 6: **healed boat-leaves wandering worlds miscalled**  
 line 7: **creeping-charleys butt nearer a day's**  
 line 8: **red 3-petal-heart perpend *zebrina* etc**

Aug 20-26/75

line 1: **Trades scant aware is plentiful**

Taylor, **Spiderwort**. Rather weak-stemmed watery-juiced, perennial herbs constituting the genus **Tradescantia** (tray-des-kan'ti-a) of the family Commelinaceae {day-flowers}, all the 100 known species American, and mostly tropical. Three are occasionally cult. in the hardy border, and one is an extremely popular greenhouse plant for hanging baskets—the wandering Jew (for another plant so called see ZEBRINA PENDULA). Leaves (in ours) long and narrow, or ovalish and stalkless, without marginal teeth. Flowers white or bluish-purple, or even pinkish, rather ephemeral. Sepals 3, often green or colored. Petals 3, separate. Stamens 6. Fruit a 3-valved capsule. (Named for John Tradescant, gardener to Charles I.)

{...} The wandering Jew also roots easily from cuttings or even broken bits of stem. It is common in greenhouses and often runs wild under the benches. It is a useful plant for hanging baskets, where, because of its drooping habit, it soon covers the sides of the basket.

**Trades scant a-** < *Tradescantia*

line 2: **the *dayflower* broken stem-bits root**

Taylor, **Commelina** (kom-mel-ly'na). The day-flowers are weak, watery-juiced, quickly wilting herbs of the family Commelinaceae, with jointed stems and alternate leaves without marginal teeth. Of the 100 known species, of wide distribution, only 3 are of any garden interest. They have quickly fading flowers, blue in those below, solitary or in small clusters, below which is a boat-shaped bract or spathe. Flowers irregular, the 3 sepals often colored and joined. Petals 3, two of them long-clawed. Stamens 6. 3 of them infertile. Fruit a 3-celled capsule. (Named for Caspar and Johann Commelin, Dutch botanists.)

{...} All are easily propagated by rooting bits of their jointed stems in moist sand; all of them spread by self-sown seeds.

**C. coelestis** {> Sky-blue}. A perennial up to 2 ft. high, but usually half sprawling. Flowers dark blue, nearly 1 in. long. Common in greenhouses and hardy outdoors south of zone 6. Mex.

See Taylor line 1.

line 3: **bleed uncoil East is 3**

{on **bleed**, see remark by CZ in LZ's notes above: "bleeds + heals"}.

See Taylor line 1 and 2.

**[un]coil East is** < *coelestis*

line 4: **petals 2 night-blue the third**

See Taylor line 1 and 2.

Taylor, **Spiderwort** {cont. from line 1: “Three are occasionally cult. in the hardy border...”} >

**T. bracteata**. A hardy perennial, not over 12 in. high. Leaves narrowly lance-shaped, 6-8 in. long. Flowers blue or purplish-blue, the 2 bracts beneath them wider than the leaves and boat-shaped. Central U.S. June-Aug.

**T. Fluinensis**. Wandering Jew. A prostrate or trailing plant, the leaves ovalish, 2-2½ in. long, pointed both ends, essentially stalkless. Flowers white. S.A., but naturalized in warm sections of the U.S.

**T. virginiana**. Common spiderwort, sometimes called snake grass. A hardy perennial, 2-3 ft. high. Leaves 12-15 in. long, scarcely 1 in. wide, often channeled. Flowers violet-purple or bluish. Eastern U.S., west to Ark. May-Aug.

line 5: **white a spathe hides above**

See Taylor line 4 and line 2.

line 6: **healed boat-leaves wandering worlds miscalled**

See note on CZ line 3.

See Taylor line 2 and 4.

Taylor, **Zebrina** (see-bry'na). A genus of only 2 species of the family Commelinaceae, one of them, **Z. pendula** {> Hanging}, the wandering Jew, a Mexican, watery-juiced herb, widely cult. in greenhouses and often spreading under the benches. It is closely related to *Tradescantia fluminensis* (also called wandering Jew), a Brazilian plant, from which it differs chiefly in having the petals united into a tube (see Spiderwort). *Zebrina pendula* is a decumbent or prostrate plant, rooting very easily at the joints and grown mostly for its foliage and handsome reddish-purple flowers from between 2 boat-shaped, unequal bracts. The var. **quadicolor**, with its leaves striped green, white, and red, is a particularly showy form. {...} (*Zebrina* is from the Latin for zebra, in allusion to the striped foliage.)

line 7: **creeping-charleys butt nearer a day's**

\*LZ, “Ferdinand”: She had planted a sprig of Creeping Charlie—her eyes like stars moving—and was oblivious as to whether it was called Wandering Jew or a weed (CF 262; quoted “A”-17, 380). {The Creeping Charley appears quite prominently in the latter half of “Ferdinand,” where its flowers are described as “blue, mantis-like face” (221) and identified as *Commelina virginica*. The confusion between this flower and both Wandering Jew and Creeping Charlie is mentioned at 241.

\*Taylor, **Lysimachia** > **L. Nummularia**. Moneywort; also called creeping Charlie and creeping Jennie. A prostrate perennial with trailing stems that root easily at the joints.

CD, **Charley, n.** A slang name for a watchman under the old patrol system in England: given, it is said, because Charles I. in 1640 extended and improved the patrol system of London.

line 8: **red 3-petal-heart perpend zebrina etc**

See Taylor line 6 and 1.

Onions, **perpend**: to consider Wiv II. i. 117, Tw.N. v. i. 310 p. . . . *and give ear*, H5 IV. iv. 8 P. *my words*.