

(63)

(p.83

(Oxalis)

Subs #63 first list

Notes collected b. Mon Aug 1/77
thru <Th.> Aug 11/77

Gray: 943 - Wood-sorrel, lady's sorrel

Taylor 851: ox'a-lis; USA ok-sal'is.

f. Oxalidaea - 800 species, Andes cushion, edible
tubers Mexico, S Africa (verb trans + in.

cont. v.i. (lyse / ~~??~~ a less? ??

v.i. (lysis) → ~~?~~ **physiology** Webster p 9 notes 2/3/77 More / ****** ruse

see #4 (liveforever) | **undergo lysis** / **gradual cure of a disease**)

↓ MND II 1 Oberon to Robin (l. 249-250) the flower there?

folio Welcome, wanderer. | . . give it me | I know a bank

time where the wild thyme blows | Where oxlips⁽²⁾ and the

nodding violet grows **** l. 168 love-in-idleness (***)**

(**heartsease, viola tricolor #11**) (2) **Primula** <Primrose> elatior) ↘

(T 973) **hardy perennial max H 8 in flwrs yellow crowded umbels** (elator)

Apr May (cf L. **primus** re- early spring flwrs / N.B. scald + scold also / W.S.) **(***)**

Century Ox'alis (ok 'sa lis) N.L. Linnaeus 1737- <see / margin>

{vertical:} L. Oxalis < Gr. ὄξαλις, sorrel, sour wine < ὄξις (*)

elator (elater) sharp, pungent, acid, sour) illust. vol 5 Oxalis violacea

re- expansi- (wood-sorrel); **obcordate** leaves of Yellow Wood-

bility of a / Sorrel (Oxalis corniculata, var. stricta illust under

gas / **obcordate.** Oxalis flwrs yellow, pink, white, red

Boyle - (O. Deppei Mexico, edible roots <**pulse**>) (~~cont. v.i.~~)

spring except for O. ortgiesi oca 12-18"

of the air Taylor 851 (cont) H 3-6 in (primrose v.s. max 8") Peru Andes

exp xxii / (cult. greenhoused). O. corniculata (Port J.) peren.

of many 3 leaflets notched. flwrs ½" L yellow, few-flowered

particles / clusters; O. violacea purple wood sorrel tip

of air / notched, illust Woodland 49 (at night leaflets

dispersed / fold down against leaf-stalk, "sleep" until bright

thru / water daylight. Lavender, rosy-purple, white; buds twisted

curiously, peren. 4-9 in H lvs grow in a tuft from small / brown bulb

~~to lesse?~~ **to lose, an old word Johnson); WS Sonnet {5} / l. 14**

{vertical:} ~~??~~ (line 13 winter . . flowers)

hosny? = (*Lese) **but their show, their substance still lives / sweet (*)**

cryptogam Liddell 4922 'OΞΥ'Σ lithos oxús - a / sharpened stone-knife,

(? setiens es oxú apigaménon brought to a point; TÒ OXÚ

sharp point or vertex of a triangle.

(mistaken for ["shamrock"
clover)

identified blossoming
as wood sorrel 5/18/77

cont. as of Aug 1 -

locust blossoms +

mulberry (f) genus

morus - berry above

oxalis at the same

time. Rampant 7/9

(use*
 Lese
 as noun)↓
 eyes?
 Lewis
 + Short

II re- impressions of senses:
 of the sun (răpīdūs sol, (Virgil) [sharp, keen, piercing;
 cf pain or grief)
 [G I 92 rare adj = tearing away (motion swift, quick
 (poetical) seizing consuming heat w. Virgil Georgics
 Martial, Lucretius etc
 bard - medieval horse's armor
 also Langland, Piers + cf Donne a lease of life / with Sonnet V l.14

* * *

(63) - cont p 2 (Oxalis) (p 84)
 pencil draft b. Th. Aug 11 - f Sat Aug 13/77

- 1
- 2
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- 5
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ink draft Sat. Aug 13/77

- 1
- 2
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- 7
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[N.B. line 5, pronounce ruse with Latin s
 rather than English z (rōōz)]



Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, ***Mulberry, Oxalis, Primula, Shamrock**
 Gray, *Gray's Manual of Botany*, **Oxalidaceae** > **Óxalis** (Wood-Sorrel) (943); **Primulaceae** (Primrose
 Family) > **Primula** (Primrose) (1137)
 Everett, *Woodland Flowers*, **Violet Wood Sorrel** (49)

Century Dictionary (CD), **bard, elater (elator), lease, obcordate, Oxalis**
Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, **breeze, lyse, lysis**
 Liddell & Scott, *A Greek Lexicon*, 'ΟΞΥ'Σ
 Lewis & Short, *A Latin Dictionary*, **răpīdus**
Johnson's Dictionary, **to leese**

Shakespeare, *A Midsummer-Night's Dream* II. i. 247-252
 Sonnet 5
 Samuel Johnson, *Lives of English Poets*, "Milton"

Oxalis

line 1: **Wood-sorrel lady's-sorrel 3-hearts tow ox**
 line 2: **a leese rapids whose soul**
 line 3: **air-spring disperses thru water elator**
 line 4: **ox lips mistaken for clover**
 line 5: **more ruse mulberry locust-flower shield**
 line 6: **welcome wanderer óxalis time primrose-yellow**
 line 7: **a breeze sweet rampant pulse**
 line 8: **scald scold honor the bard**

Aug. 11-13/77

[Luck, Paul, in Iceland again] { See note to #57 Dogwood on PZ in Iceland. }

line 1: **Wood-sorrel lady's-sorrel 3-hearts tow ox**

Gray, **FAM. 85 OXALIDACEAE** (Wood-Sorrel Family). *Plants with regular 5-merous 10-15-
 androus flowers. Ovary superior, 5-locular, the carpels 2-∞-ovuled, usually distinct above, loculicidal.*
 — Ours low herbs with sour watery juice and delicate impunctate palmate alternate or radical leaves
 with 3 obcordate leaflets.

1. Óxalis L. WOOD-SORREL. LADY'S-SORREL. { ... } (Greek name for sorrel, from *oxys*, *sour*.) (943).

CD, **Oxalis** (ok'sa-lis), *n.* [NL. (Linnaeus, 1737), < L. *oxalis*, < Gr. *ὄξαλις*, sorrel, also sour
 wine, < *ὄξύς*, sharp, pungent, acid, sour.] **1.** A genus of ornamental plants, type of the tribe *Oxalideae*
 of the order *Geraniaceae*. It is characterized by the ten perfect stamens, five distinct styles, and five-
 lobed loculicidal pod with ten persistent valves. There are about 205 species, mostly of South Africa
 and South American, with one of two widely scattered throughout the tropics, and three of four
 throughout the temperate zones. They produce short stems with alternate leaves, or more commonly
 radical leaves from a fleshy rootstock or bulb. The characteristic leaves are of three radiating inversely
heart-shaped leaflets; others are pinnate or undivided. The flowers are yellow, pink, or white, usually in

long-stalked umbels, with additional minute apetalous flowers close-fertized in the bud. Several species yield edible tubers. *O. Deppei* of Mexico, with four leaflets and red flowers, has fusiform edible roots. {...} See cut under *obcordate*.

CD, **obcordate**, *a.* [*<ob- + cordate.*] In *nat. hist.*, inversely heart-shaped; cordate, but with the broader end, with its strong notch, at the apex instead of the base. {*accompanying illustration:*} Obcordate {3} Leaflets of Yellow Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis corniculata*, var. *stricta*).

Liddell & Scott, 'ΟΞΥ'Σ {oxys}, ὀξεῖα Ion. ὀξέα, ὀξύ, *sharp, keen, pointed*; λίθος ὀξύς *a sharpened stone for a knife*; ἐς ὀξὺ ἀπιγμένον *brought to a point*; τό ὀξύ {*to oxy*} *the sharp point or vertex of a triangle*. II. of impressions on the senses, *sharp, keen, piercing*; of the sun, like rapidus sol in Virgil, *dazzling*. 2. of sight, *keen, piercing*; {...} 5. of pain or grief, *sharp, piercing* (492).

to w ox < τό ὀξύ, *to oxy*

Taylor, **Oxalis** (ox'a-lis: also ok-sal'is). Wood sorrel. A very large and interesting group of sour-juiced herbs, the chief genus of the family Oxalidaceae, producing somewhat woody cushion plants in the Andes, edible tubers in Mexico, some beautiful wild flowers in our woods, and several rather weedy, yellow-flowered roadside weed. Of the over 800 species, which are most abundant in the Andes and South Africa, only a few are of any hort. interest. All have compound, clover-like leaves, the leaflets always arranged finger-fashion, folding up at night or in dark, weather (hence described as "going to sleep"). Flowers solitary, or more often in few-flowered clusters, white, pink red, or yellow. Sepals and petals 5 each. Stamens 10. 5 longer than the others. Fruit a capsule. (*Oxalis* is from the Greek for sour, in allusion to the sour juice of most species.)

O. Acetosell. Common wood sorrel; called, also, sleeping beauty and sheep sorrel. It is also one of the plants known as shamrock.

ox / a leese < ox'a-lis

line 2: **a leese rapids whose soul**

See Taylor line 1.

Shakespeare, Sonnet 5, l. 13-14:

But flowers distilled, though they with winter meet,
Leese but their show; their substance still lives sweet.

CD, **lease**¹ v. {...} II. *intrans.* To glean; gather up leavings, as at harvest. [Prov. Eng.]

Ac who so helpeth me to erie or sowen here ar I wende
Shal haue leue, bi owre lorde, to *lese* here to heruest.

Piers Plowman (B), vi. 68.

lease², *n.* [*< ME. *lese, {...}*] a thing left by will, a legacy; cf. OF. *laisse, lesse*, *f.*, a present; from the verb. Cf. *lease*⁵, *leash*, of the same ult. origin.] **3.** The duration of tenure by lease; a term of leasing; hence, the terminable time or period of anything: as, to take property on a long *lease*; a short *lease* of life.

In this laziness she [the soul] sleeps out her *lease*, her term of life, in this death, in this grave in this body. *Donne*, Sermons, xvii.

Johnson's Dictionary, **to leese**. To lose: an old word.

Webster's Dictionary, **lyse**, *v. t. Bacteriol. & Physical.* To cause to undergo lysis. —*v. i.* To undergo lysis.

lysis, *n.* [NL., fr. Gr. *lysis*.] **1. Med.** The resolution or favorable termination of a disease, coming on gradually.

See Liddell & Scott line 1.

Lewis & Short, **răpīdus**, a, um, *adj.* [rapio] *tearing away, seizing* **I.** Lit (very rare, and only poet.) {...} *Of fierce, consuming heat: aestus, Verg. E. 2, 10: sol, id. G. 1, 92: {...} —II. Transf., *tearing or hurrying along, swift, quick, rapid* (the predom. and class. signif.; esp. freq. in the poets). **rapids whose soul** < rapidus sol {from Virgil, see Liddell & Scott line 1}.*

line 3: **air-spring disperses thru water elator**

CD, **elater**¹, **elator**, *n.* [< *elate* + *-er*¹, *-or.*] One who or that which elates.

CD, **elater**², *n.* {...} **1†.** Elasticity; especially, the expansibility of a gas.

It may be said that the swelling of the compressed water in the pewter vessel lately mentioned, and the springing up of the water at the hole made by the needle, were not the effects of an internal *elator* of the water, but of the spring of the many little particles of air dispersed through that water. Boyle, Spring of the Air, Exp. xxii.

Taylor, **Primula** (prim'you-la). Primrose. A large genus of over 500 species of low-biennials, of the family Primulaceae, chiefly natives of the northern hemisphere, and found mostly in alpine and cool localities. {...} (*Primula* is a diminutive of *primus*, first, in allusion to the spring bloom.)

P. elatior. Oxlip. Hardy perennial, to 8 in. high. Leaves basal, ovalish, 2-4 in. long, wrinkled, slightly hairy on under side, midrib prominent on under side. Flowers yellow, showy, in many-flowered umbels. April-May. Suitable for rock garden, border, or naturalizing. Eu. and western As.

line 4: **ox lips mistaken for clover**

See Taylor line 3.

Shakespeare, *A Midsummer-Night's Dream* II. i. 247-252:

Oberon. Hast thou the flower there? Welcome, wanderer.

Robin. Ay, there it is.

Oberon. I pray thee, give it me.

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,

Where oxlips and nodding violet grows,

Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,

With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine.

Taylor, **Shamrock**. In different seasons and in different regions at least three cult. plants pass as "shamrock." The most common and perhaps the true shamrock, if there is one, is the common white clover (*Trifolium repens*). Another plant often sold as shamrock is the hop clover (*Medicago lupulina*). The third is a wood sorrel (*Oxalis Acetosella*). Which is the true shamrock might be left to the Irish, if they agreed, but they do not. {See #36 Clover, lines 4-7}.

line 5: **more ruse mulberry locust-flower shield**

Johnson, *Lives of Poets*, "Milton": [Milton] undertook his own vindication against More, whom he declares in his title to be justly called the author of the *Regii Sanguinis clamor*. In this there is no want of vehemence nor eloquence, nor does he forget his wonted wit. 'Morus es? an Momus? an uterque idem est?' {Morus is? or Momus? or both are the same?} He then remembers that Morus is Latin for a Mulberry-tree, and hints at the known transformation:

—Poma alba ferebat

Quae post nigra tulit Morus.

{from Ovid, *Metamorphoses* IV. 51-52: Morus, from bearing white fruit, afterwards bore black.} With this piece ended his controversies; and he from this time gave himself up to his private

studies and his civil employment (86). {In NBk LZ transliterates the Latin as: “More ruses ’n Momus? / an author god damndst? pome ah alb ah foray bot / Why post denigrate too lit more ruse / mulberry”}.

*Taylor, **Mulberry**, These fruit-bearing trees, one of them widely grown in the Far East as food for silkworms, comprising 12 species of the genus **Morus** (more’us) of the family Moraceae, all the cult. species of which are Asiatic except a native American one. {...} (*Morus* is the old Latin name of the mulberry.)

{See LZ’s notes above on “locust blossoms + mulberry (f) genus.”}

line 6: **welcome wanderer óxalis time primrose-yellow**

See Shakespeare line 4.

See Taylor, **Primula** > **P. elatior** line 3.

line 7: **a breeze sweet rampant pulse**

Webster’s Dictionary, **breeze**, *n.* [AS. *bríosa*.] *Now Dial.* A gadfly.

breeze, *n.* [F. *brise*, possibly a var. of *bise*.] **1. a** A light, gentle wind. **b** *Meteorol.* Any wind of from 7 to 38 miles an hour. **2. Colloq.** A flurry of temper or excitement; a quarrel. {NBk}.

See Shakespeare line 2.

{See LZ’s notes above for **rampant**. **CD*, **rampant**, Climbing or springing unchecked; rank in growth; exuberant: as, *rampant* weeds}.

See *CD*, **Oxalis** {LZ’s notes above add “pulse” above “edible roots”}.

line 8: **scald scold honor the bard**

CD*, **scald³, **skald**², *n.* [<ME. *scald*, *scalde*, *scawde* (= G. *skalde* = Sw. *skald* = Dan. *skjald*), < Icel. *skāld*, a poet, the accepted word for ‘poet,’ but prob. orig. or later used in a depreciative sense (as indicated by the derived *skāldi*, a poetaster, a vagrant verse-maker, *skāldfífl*, a poetaster; {...}) According to Skeat, perhaps orig. ‘loud talker,’ < *skjalla* (pret. *skall*) (= Sw. *skalls* = G. *schallen*), resound; akin to *scold*: see *scold*. According to Cleasby and Vigfusson, the name has reference to libels and imprecations which were in the heathen age scratched on poles; {...}. An ancient Scandinavian poet; one who composed poems in honor of distinguished men and their achievements, and recited and sang them on public occasions.

CD, **bard**², *n.* {...} **1.** Any one of the pieces of defensive armor used in medieval Europe to protect the horse.

{See NBk: “R’cd / from / Bard honor / degree” (3rd abbreviated list p. 1) – alluding to LZ’s receipt of an Honorary D.Litt. from Bard College in June 1977; see #74 Aloe and #75 Thyme}.