



FIG. 179.—POLIANTHES × BLISSII.

THE GENUS POLIANTHES.

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POLIANTHES × BLISSII.

Analysis of parental and hybrid characters.

There are ten characters in which the parents differ from each other—in respect to which ten characters the hybrid holds an intermediate position in six, resembles the female parent in none, and the male parent in four. The ratio is $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 in favour of the male, the ten characters being represented by the expression $7m + 3f$. But I must note that this results from examining three hybrid individuals, and that the result of analysing all the seedlings of this generation would probably modify the figures to some extent. The general appearance of the plant as seen “in elevation” is also much more suggestive of the female than of the male; but, however desirable from a garden point of view, it is not possible to reduce the general appearance of a plant to a comparable character.

It should be noted that the bracts are very variable both in the parents and in the hybrid; that the colour character is of little importance in the hybrid, because albinism exists in the genus *Bravoa*. Yet I attach much importance to the fact that the remarkable fragrance of *P. tuberosa* is present, to a modified extent, in the hybrid.

Bravoa geminiflora
(Female).

- a. Flowers scentless.
- b. Perianth depending throughout.
- d. „ $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches long.
- e. „ red.
- f. „ external surface dull.
- g. Peduncle slender, wiry.
- h. Style exserted.
- j. Flowering stem 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet long.
- l. Leaves unspotted.
- m. Leaves few (5 or 6).

Polianthes tuberosa (garden form).
(Male).

- A. Very fragrant.
- B. Sub-erect.
- D. $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.
- E. White.
- F. External surface waxy.
- G. Stout, woody.
- H. Shorter.
- J. 2 to 3 feet long.
- L. Basal leaves spotted below.
- M. More numerous (6 to 9).

Polianthes × Blissii
(the hybrid)

produced these characters in the three individuals examined:—

$\frac{Aa}{2} \frac{Bb}{2} \frac{Dd}{2} \frac{Ee}{2} F \frac{Gg}{2} H J L m$ in the first individual hybrid plant.

$\frac{Aa}{2} \frac{Bb}{2} d \frac{Ee}{2} F \frac{Gg}{2} H J L M$ „ second „ „ „

$\frac{Aa}{2} \frac{Bb}{2} \frac{Dd}{2} \frac{Ee}{2} F \frac{Gg}{2} H J L \frac{Mm}{2}$ „ third „ „ „

The last, quite accidentally, represents the mean of these three hybrids.

Polianthes is a deciduous genus. The year before flowering, a wide leafy growth is produced, but the year of flowering only a few straggling narrow basal leaves from the centre of which rises the bracteate flowering stem.