



M.E. Eaton

SCHIZOCENTRON ELEGANS

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Procumbent Heeria

Native of eastern Mexico

Family MELASTOMATACEÆ MEADOW-BEAUTY Family

Heeria elegans Schlecht. *Linnaea* 13: 432. 1839.*Schizocentron elegans* Meissn. *Gen. Comm.* 355. 1843.

This very charming little plant, first discovered more than seventy years ago, long remained unknown in our living collections. Indeed, until its rediscovery by the writer, it was not to be found in any of our American herbaria.

In 1901 the writer visited Jalapa, Mexico, hoping to find this plant in the vicinity of that town where it had first been discovered. One can easily imagine his surprise and delight in going out into the garden or patio of the pension to find the plant growing in abundance there.

Living plants were sent back to Washington in 1901 which flowered in 1904 but soon died. Specimens sent to the New York Botanical Garden succeeded much better and have flowered abundantly each year, making a beautiful display. In Mexico it seemed to grow equally well in shade or sunshine. It deserves to be more widely cultivated and probably would grow in the open in some of our southern States.

The plant has long passed in literature under the name of *Heeria elegans* and is in fact the type of the genus *Heeria* of Schlechtendal, but this name had been previously used and hence a new name was given the genus.

The procumbent heeria is a low creeping vine-like plant forming a dense carpet and rooting at the joints; its branches are slender, terete, reddish, with appressed pubescence; the leaves are small, opposite, ovate and short-petioled; the flowers are terminal at the ends of short branches; calyx-tube is covered with glandular bristles and has four ovate lobes; the corolla is rotate, nearly or quite an inch broad; the petals are four, purplish, orbicular; the stamens are ten, of two kinds; the ovary is crowned by a prominent lacerate disk.

J. N. ROSE.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE. Fig. 1.—Flowering plant. Fig. 2.—Part of calyx and 3 stamens, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. Fig. 3.—Pistil, $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$. Fig. 4.—Two kinds of stamens, $\times 2$. Fig. 5.—Fruit, $\times 2$.