

Lachenalia polyphylla* Bak.** (Plate 32b)polyphylla***: many-leaved

A rare, very seldom seen species recorded from the Malmesbury, Piketberg and Tulbagh districts, occurring on flat, open ground.

As the specific epithet indicates, it belongs to the small group which have numerous grass-like leaves, and its leaf bases are swollen, maroon-coloured in the upper half and covered with tiny hairs. The inflorescence is a delicate raceme of small, narrowly-campanulate flowers; the outer perianth segments are pale blue at their bases and shade to rose-pink, while the very slightly protruding inner segments are white with a rose-pink central zone and have recurved tips.

L. polyphylla is as yet unknown in cultivation, but not being particularly attractive, it would probably only appeal to the specialist grower.

Flowering period September–October

Height 60–180 mm

Cultivation performance Unknown

Lachenalia polypodantha* Schltr. ex W.F. Barker**polypodantha***: refers to the many conspicuous, feet-like anthers

A dwarf species with a very restricted distribution in the Springbok district and which has been collected on just two occasions.

It produces a single ovate leaf which is densely covered with stellate hairs on the upper surface. The very short peduncle bears a racemose inflorescence of widely-campanulate, white flowers borne on long pedicels; the outer perianth segments have pale green gibbosities, and the protruding inner segments have a pale green spot near the tips. The well-exserted stamens have conspicuous purple filaments.

The species is as yet unknown in cultivation, but will no doubt have potential as a pot subject when material becomes available.

Flowering period August–September

Height 50–150 mm

Cultivation performance Unknown

Lachenalia pustulata* Jacq.** (Plate 32c–33a)pustulata***: leaves with blisters on upper surface

Often found growing in large colonies, this scented *Lachenalia* has several colour forms, and occurs on flats and rocky outcrops in the Saldanha, Malmesbury, Paarl and Worcester districts, as well as on the Cape Peninsula.

The one or two lanceolate or lorate leaves may or may not be covered with pustules on the upper surface, depending on locality. The inflorescence consists of numerous oblong-campanulate flowers; in the typical colour forms, the outer perianth segments are cream or very pale yellow, and have green gibbosities, while the colour forms found on the west coast in the Saldanha–Vredenburg districts occur in various shades of pink or blue, and have brownish-pink