

Crocus aereus

Flowering Time	Spring
Distribution	Northern Turkey
Native Climate	Cold snowy winter, short alpine summer
Wild Habitat	Alpine meadows
Distinctive Features	Parallel fibrous corm tunic. Veined flowers
Closest Relatives	Crocus biflorus pulchricolor; Crocus biflorus tauri
Cultivation Requirements	? pot. Not likely to need sunbaked summer rest
Availability.	Little known in cultivation

Illustrated below is *Crocus biflorus pulchricolor*



Crocus aereus is a member of the biflorus group. Most of the plants seen in cultivation are in fact *Crocus biflorus* ssp *pulchricolor*. The seed raised plant, left, is no exception! (Nice plant nonetheless!)

The picture right, is *Crocus aereus* as raised from seed received from Gothenburg BG by Jim Almond.

This represents a more accurate image of *Crocus aereus*.

Examination of the corm tunic will hopefully confirm the identity.

Photograph © Jim Almond

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Some words on the variability of *Crocus aeneus* from Janis Ruksans :

“9 pictures of *Crocus aeneus* made by me (J.R.) in wild and one from my collection.

It is not the earliest of annulate crocuses to bloom. But it only confirms how difficult is job done by Helmut Kerndorff and Erich Pasche researching crocuses of this group. They always accented that it is almost impossible to identificate crocuses by pictures.”

In nature:







In Janis' collection:



More from J.R.

" Flower segments have sharply defined dark blotch on petals outside base which is present in all colour variants from white to deep purple . Under name of aeriis is quite often distributed other species and some hybrids.

Although Crocus aeriis by system of B. Mathew belongs to biflorus group its tunics are without basal rings and split in fibres as you can see on these pictures."



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