

THE OCCURRENCE OF A WHITE FORM OF *TRADERSCANTIA VIRGINICA* IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

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For a number of years, students in the Harrisburg Township High School have studied *Tradescantia Virginica* as a type, also, on account of the interesting opportunity it affords of seeing circulating protoplasm within the cell. On several occasions, such students have told me that they had seen white specimens of the flower, but none were ever brought to my attention. During more than twelve years of rather careful study of the spring flora of Saline county, I had never come across such a specimen as had been described.

In April, 1917, Leonard Atkinson, a student in the school, found in a recently cleared field about two miles north of Harrisburg, Illinois, a group of *Tradescantia* with snow white flowers. He secured a herbarium specimen, brought another to the class room, and transferred another to his home yard. This transplanted specimen grew and bloomed again, and in profusion in the spring of 1918. It is, at present, growing and has spread sufficiently to be divided for further propagation and study.

A visit to the field where the first specimens were found in 1917, made a year later was disappointing, for the field had been plowed close up to the stump and no *Tradescantia* of any kind were to be found.

While I have not had access to authorities that mention white flowers in *Tradescantia*, I am informed that some authors do mention this feature using the expression, "rarely white." This matter has been of interest to us as an illustration of a very distinct variation from the type, whether it is to be called a distinct species, a mutation, or a more or less frequently recurring variation.