

AN UNUSUAL IMPATIENS BIFLORA—II.

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The writer has previously given an account¹ of the unusual *Impatiens biflora* here referred to. Further study of the plant has been made this year. The specimen which was transplanted did not form the usual flowers. My first account called attention to this fact. Before transplanting the specimen to the greenhouse, however, it had produced a considerable number of the cleistogamous type of small flowers. This year a large number of plants grew in the moist and almost completely shaded situation where the original plant was grown. Like the parent plant, the young seedlings were characterized by a deep red color from the earliest to the latest stages of their development. They grew until killed by frost. None have reappeared in the original location where the parent plant was first found. This was the only one in the original habitat and was removed before it had produced any seed. This year's specimens exactly duplicated the original specimen, as to form and size of leaves, color, vigor of growth and in all other respects. A number of this year's specimens were transplanted to a rather shaded situation among some grape vines and other plants.

These specimens of *biflora* are feeble competitors in a struggle with the other annual plants present. The genus is often noticeable for the dense and crowded growth of the plants under proper conditions, prominent among which are shade and a moist soil. The struggle among themselves is such that unusually large numbers may thrive together without extinction or apparent dwarfing. Even the seedlings of the plant here discussed show this fact as well as the normally colored specimens. The writer has observed the ground completely obscured from view by the densely crowded seedlings of *biflora*, especially by the colored seedlings. The red specimens, transplanted among the grape vines, were in part crowded out completely and never emerged from the two-leaved seedling stage. A few reached a height of one to two dcm. The soil was suitable for their growth as was shown by the removal of a portion to another location for these plants.

Like all of the genus this red form is very tender. The supply of moisture must be abundant and continuous. This unusual form preserves its red color most perfectly in continuously shaded locations. This color is affected detrimentally by the admission of sunlight. These red forms of *biflora*, like the other forms of this genus,² are seriously injured by drought, which causes color change and stunted growth. With proper care and attention this red form can easily be grown in large numbers and is an unusually attractive plant even when flowers are not formed.

¹ Andrews, F. M. Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science, 1924, Vol. 34, pp. 271-272.

² Bailey, L. H. The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture, 1919, 3d Ed., Vol. III, p. 1642.