

GERANIACEÆ.

Pelargonium cotyledonis, L'Heritier.

Pelargonium cotyledonis, L'Heritier, Geraniol., t. 27 ; Ait., Hort. Kew., ed. 1, ii. p. 428 ; Willd., Sp.

Pl., iii. p. 674 ; DC., Prodr., i. p. 655 ; Melliss, St Hel., p. 250, t. 30.

Geranium cotyledonis, Linn., Mant., p. 569 ; Andrews, Geran., *cum icone*.

Isopetalum cotyledonis, Sweet, Geran., t. 126.

Erodium sempervivum, Roxb. in Beatson's St Helena Tracts, p. 308.

ST HELENA.—Endemic. Cole's Rock—*Burchell*, 129.

"Old Father live for ever" is the name applied to this plant by the islanders, in consequence of its power of retaining vitality for months without soil or water.

It was introduced into this country by Mr John Bush in 1765, and was cultivated in several gardens for many years, flowering freely, in some places at least. In a wild state it very rarely flowers, a few flowers collected by Burchell being the only ones we have seen. "It is now very rare, but still to be found at altitudes of 50 to 1000 feet clinging to the barren, exposed, rocky cliffs overhanging the sea-coast on the windward side of the island, where there is least soil and moisture. The colour of its stem is a chocolate-brown, considerably mottled by the grey lichens growing upon it, and so nearly resembles the dark basaltic cliffs and soil upon which it is found, that at the time when the plant is leafless it is most difficult to distinguish it from the rock upon which it grows. It seems to seek out the most inaccessible places, where there is no other vegetation—indeed, where nothing else would grow ; and not without some risk are plants of it to be obtained. It throws out its leaves and white blossoms about May and June, after the summer rains ; these soon die away again, leaving the plant for the most part of the year very much like a knotted mass of old fir-tree roots. It is now chiefly found on Sandy Bay Barn and Man and Horse Cliffs ; and the only places inland where it occurs, and that very rarely, are Cole's Rock, in Sandy Bay, and at the eastern side of High Knoll—altitude, 1875 feet."—*Melliss*.

Linnæus described this plant in 1771, probably from cultivated specimens, and recorded it from the Cape of Good Hope, adding, "*Non dum mihi floruit.*"

Oxalis corniculata, Linn.

Oxalis corniculata, Linn., Sp. Pl. ed. 1, p. 435 ; DC., Prodr., i. p. 692 ; Melliss, St Hel., p. 252.

ST HELENA.—Introduced ? Abundant all over the island—*Burchell* ; *Hooker* ; *Melliss*.

This plant is now universally spread, excepting in the colder regions ; and it is impossible to determine where its presence is due to natural, and where to accidental causes.