

Letters

Teucriums

It's funny how you come to discover a particular group of plants. Alex Pankhurst's soliloquy on teucriums reminds me how much I like these plants too. The ones I grow are mostly alpinines including *T. pyrenaicum*, which Alex mentioned, and I agree is a super little plant. I also have *T. polium*, which has soft-grey felted leaves and yellowish flowers. Wol and Sue Staines, at Glen Chantry, grow or grew on their limestone rockery a wonderful specimen of Cat Thyme, *T. marum*, intensely aromatic and beloved by



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T. polium

cats as much as by discerning gardeners! As Alex says, none are flamboyant in flower, but they do have something about them which adds to the garden. **Tim Ingram, Kent**

Ginger lilies

“Be sure your sins will find you out” is one of my mother's many sayings, and one I have used over the years. Well I am guilty of perhaps not strictly a sin, but maybe a misdemeanour – in response to my article, *Gardening is Easy*, in the Autumn 2011 edition, I was contacted by a certain Mr Tony Schilling, who, in the nicest possible way, guided me gently to the conclusion that it included an inaccuracy. Basically I had got it wrong: the hedychium I had quoted as seeding prolifically was not *Hedychium coccineum* ‘Tara’ but *Hedychium densiflorum* ‘Assam Orange’, quite a different creature.



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Hedychium coccineum ‘Tara’

I won't go into how mortified I was, but, again as my mother would say, “We live and learn”. So I'll stand up and apologise for the error but I cannot say that I regret it: it has meant that I have come into contact with a gentleman who has inspired me with his enthusiasm, humour, and patience in dealing with such a numbskull. Now who was it that used to say “Every cloud has a silver lining”?

I'm also thrilled to tell you that ‘Tara’ actually set seed last year and I, two gardening colleagues, and of course my new friend Tony Schilling are attempting to propagate this seed. Watch this space!

Gill Heavens, Devon