

Name: C. D. Calnan

Address: St. John's Hospital,  
Leicester Square,  
London, W.C.2.

Subject: *Iris pseudacorus* L.

A sixteen year old girl presented with a short history of an itching dermatitis of the left wrist which later spread to her arms and face with swelling of her eyelids. She had worn a bracelet made from 'tiger lily' seeds.

Standard patch tests were all negative but a patch test with the seeds and leaf of the 'lily' plant were positive at 48 and 96 hours. Control tests with the seeds were negative.

The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew identified the specimen as *Iris pseudacorus* L. the Yellow Flag, which is native to Europe, Western Asia and North Africa. It is quite different from the common iris plant *Iris germanica*.

Dr. A. J. Rook states that it's seeds were used for roasting as a coffee substitute and it's roots for making ink. Karrer states that it contains Violaxanthin.