

# SAXIFLORA

PLATE 11

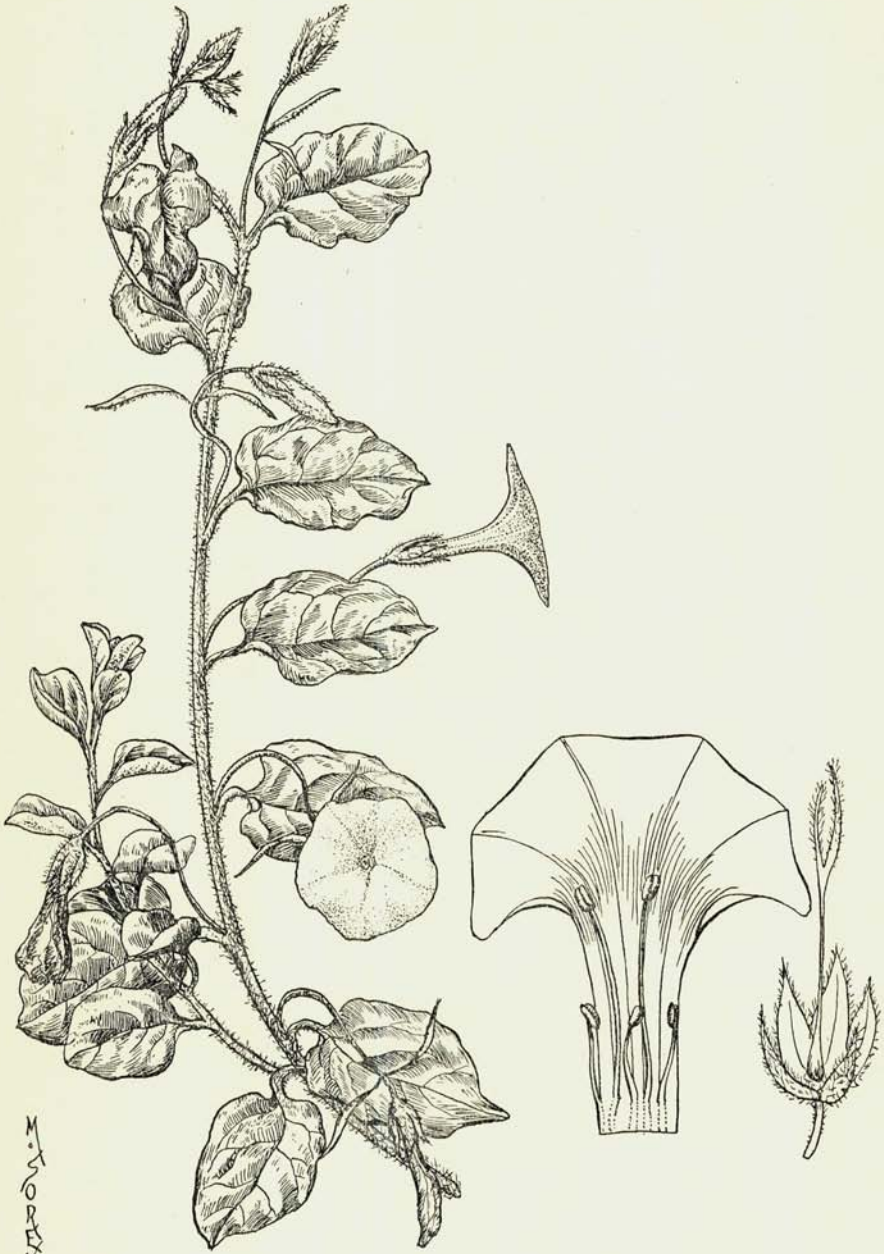
**Convolvulus mauritanicus**  
(*Convolvulaceae*)

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*Convolvulus mauritanicus*

## Convolvulus mauritanicus

Summer-blooming blue flowers for the rock garden are greatly to be desired and yet comparatively few know this low-growing dainty morning-glory. Perhaps this is due to the fact that most of the members of this largely tropical family of plants known to gardeners are the easily grown annuals, familiar denizens of every backyard garden.

Those who have grown this plant find it a very useful and attractive addition to their rock gardens.

*Convolvulus mauritanicus* has been cultivated on the Pacific Coast for a number of years and propagates quite readily from seed or cuttings. It is prostrate, with numerous radiating trailing stems. When well grown, the plants make small mats from the size of a dinner plate upward and are liberally sprinkled with dark blue or violet purple flowers. They bloom for a long period from June onward, the exact time varying with locality. Like most of its relatives, this plant is a worshipper of the sun, and a sunny spot on a well-drained soil meets its not too exacting requirements.

*Convolvulus mauritanicus* is a perennial African plant, with alternate, roundish ovate, dark green leaves. The leaves and stems, sepals, and buds are hairy, sometimes rather conspicuously so. The flowers have the familiar funnel shape of the morning-glory, but with a shorter tube than some of the more common members of the family. The stamens are yellow, five in number, and not exerted beyond the mouth of the tube. The flowers flare abruptly into a broad limb, which has five well-marked radiating white bands on the reverse of the corolla, each band more or less hairy and corresponding to the folds of the tube while still in the bud. The flowers are borne on short stems from each leaf axil, the stems being long enough to carry one to three blossoms above the foliage mat. Each flower stalk carries a pair of bracts below the flower. Where there are two or more flowers to a stalk, this pair of bracts is just below the points of insertion of the shorter individual flower stems and these shorter stems often carry additional smaller bracts just below the blossoms.

IRA N. GABRIELSON.