

Zubitzki, K. 1998a, 1998b: *The Families and Genera of Vascular Plants. Vol. III Flowering Plants; Monocotyledons. Liliaceae (except Orchidaceae). Vol. IV Flowering Plants; Monocotyledons. Alismatanae and Commelinanae (except Gramineae).* Springer Verlag, Berlin

### **NOTE: BAMBOO FLOWERING IN A CHRISTCHURCH GARDEN**

Many young bamboo plants, which apparently belong to a species of *Himalayacalamus*, (det. Bill Sykes), have sprung up in our Avonhead garden over the last few years. Their origin harks back to flowering of a clump of this relatively spot-bound and very attractive tall grass in the summers of three consecutive years, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98. The first two of these flowering episodes were major events, with many culms blooming. By the end of 1997 much of the bamboo clump (the original having been purchased at a local nursery about 20 years before) had died off and only a few flower heads appeared.

The original plant was grown in a very dry position on the north side of our house. Each year its three to three and a half metre tall stems were trimmed back, as they extended through our upstairs decking. Stems were cut from time to time to furnish rods for garden markers and stakes.

Very large numbers of seeds were present on the bamboo after the 1995-96 and 1996-97 flowerings. The seeds were greedily eaten by sparrows, while still on their parent, or after falling to the ground, but plenty survived to germinate. The seeds seem to be very viable, as hundreds of seedlings have appeared. I have potted quite a number and given them away. It's interesting to know that bamboo flowering can occur for several years running.

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