

채집한 식물들 9-13번

서울의 도심 공터에서 채집한 식물들: 항상 그 자리에 있었지만 아무도 신경 쓰지 않거나, 누군가 발견하더라도 그저 제거의 대상일 뿐인 잡초라 불리는 야생종 식물들이다. 그 중 많은 것들은 예로부터 약재로 쓰이는 목초일 것이며, 그들은 아무리 날씨가 아무리 건조하고 무더워도 도심 어딘가에서 그들만의 자리를 찾아 그들만의 방식으로 자란다. 사람들이 정해놓은 소유권, 국경, 권력, 정치, 혹은 도시 계획과는 무관하게 마치 조용하게 자신의 영토를 주장하듯이 그렇게 도심 안에서 살고 자라고 있다. 그들은 조건도 따지지 않고 무던하며, 또 매우 단단한 존재들이다. 만약 표면에 상처가 나고, 자신들의 거주지에 있는 건물이 허물어지고 한동안 땅이 파헤쳐져도 그들은 금방 다시 그 자리에서 자라난다. 마치 이 식물들이 이 국가의 원주민이며 땅 속에 항상 자연의 씨앗은행을 가지고 있는 것처럼 그들은 매우 매우 강하다. 다른 나라에서 들어온 외래종 식물들이 새로운 환경에 적응되면서 그들 역시 이 무자비한 환경을 견뎌낼 수 있게 되는 경우도 있다.

만약 외래종이 너무 잘 자라서 재래종을 위협하게 되는 경우 우리는 그들을 외래 침입종이라고 부른다. 하지만 그것이 재래종이던 외래종이던 이 거리의 식물들은 그저 잡초덩어리일 뿐 사람들에게 거의 잘 '인식되지' 않는다. 대신 우리는 도심 안의 한시적으로 비어있는 공터에 새로운 건물이 들어서기만을 기다리고 있다. 그러니까 이렇게 잠시 비어있는 도시의 공간 상태를 잠시 '기능하지 않는 중간의 상태' 정도로 인식할 뿐 그 자체로 받아들이지 못한다. 그러다 보니 사람들은 그 '공터'를 아무것도 없는 곳으로 생각하고 한시적인 쓰레기장으로 이용하곤 한다. 하지만, 실제 그곳에는 이미 많은 것들이 살고 있다. 그들을 발견하려는 사람들의 마음과 의지, 그리고 그들을 바라보는 '눈'을 통해서만 존재가 인식될 뿐일지라도.

Plant collections no. 9-13.

These are plants from Seoul. Plants that no one notice but are everywhere. Or that is, they are noticed but as something only to get rid off. They are wild growing species. Also called weeds. Many of them may actually be old medical herbs. No matter how dry it gets, or hot, they will grow and find their way in every city scape. As if they silently claim back land, regardless of ownership, borders, power, money, politics or urban planning. They are extremely undemanding and hardy. If a surface has a crack or a house is demolished and the soil is left naked for a short while, it is very likely you will soon see some of these plants growing there. Often they are hardy as they are native to the country and as so they have a natural seed bank in the ground at all times. However it is common that also plants brought in from other countries may have accustomed so well that also they will survive these merciless conditions. If a foreign plant grows too well and is an aggressive competition to local plants, we call them 'invasive' species. But no matter native or foreign, all these plants are rarely noticed as other than mess. Instead we are waiting for the house to be replaced on the temporarily empty site. The missing of any kind of construction is more an "in between function" than something in itself. Which means people rather use the site as a dump yard. There is "nothing" there anyway. But there is plenty - only depending on the eye that looks, the mindset that perceives or the ideal with which we strive for.

List of species
30 Tongui-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul
11.08.16

Note: (IP) = invasive plant

Garden cosmos / *Cosmos bipinnatus* / Stolt Kaveler
코스모스 (IP)
Rough potato / *Metaplexis japonica* / -
박주가리
Frost Aster / *Aster pilosus* / Asters
미국쑥부쟁이 (IP)
Evening primrose / *Oenothera biennis* / Natlys
달맞이꽃 (IP)
Annual Fleabane / *Erigeron annuus* / Smalstråle
개망초 (IP)
Giant Foxtail / *Setaria faberii* / Skærmaks
가을강아지풀
Basket willow / *Salix viminalis* / Bånd-Pil
버들
Horseweed / *Conyza canadensis* / Canadisk Bakkestjerne
망초
Dandelion / *Taraxacum officinale* / Alm. Mælkebøtte
서양민들레 (IP)
Indian lettuce / *Lactuca indica* / Salat
왕고들빼기
Japanese mugwort / *Artemisia princeps* / Bynke
쑥
Japanese elm / *Ulmus davidiana* var. *Japonica* / Japansk Elm
느릅나무
Asian copperleaf / *Acalypha australis* / Acalypha
깨풀
White Mulberry / *Morus alba* / Hvid Morbær
뽕나무
Prickly lettuce / *Lactuca scariola* / Tornet salat
가시상추 (IP)
Greater celandine / *Chelidonium majus* var. *Asiaticum* / Svaleurt
애기똥풀
Sowthistle / *Sonchus brachyotus* / Svinemælk
사데풀
Cypress vine seeds / *Quamoclit pennata* / Pragtsnerle
유홍초 (IP)
Silverlace Vine / *Fallopia dentatoalata* / Arkitektens trøst
큰닭의덩굴
Daisy family / *Crepidiastrum sonchifolium* / Kurveblomst fam.
고들빼기
White snakeroot / *Eupatorium rugosum* / Hvid Hjortetrøst
서양등골나물 (IP)
Creeping red fescue / *Festuca rubra* / Rød Svingel
왕김의털
Amaranth family / *Achyranthes fauriei* / Amaranth fam.
털쇠무릎
Boston ivy / *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* / Rådhusvin
담쟁이덩굴 (IP)
Japanese morning / glory *Pharbitis nil* / Blå Snerle
나팔꽃 (IP)
Virginia pepperweed / *Lepidium virginicum* / Virginsk karse
콩다닥냉이 (IP)
Shaggy soldier / *Galinsoga ciliata* / Kirtel-Kortstråle
털별꽃아재비 (IP)
White goosefoot / *Chenopodium album* / Hvidmelet Gåsefod
흰명아주
Spanish needles / *Bidens bipinnata* / Brøndsel
도깨비바늘

Plant Collection no. 8
Siljangade 5-7, Copenhagen
13.06.2016

A *Hwa-hwan* is a Korean flower arrangement. *Hwa-hwan* means 'three circles on top of each other' and according to Korean traditions it is used for celebrations; colorful decorations is for happy occasions, white only is for mournful events. It was made in a wasteland site in Copenhagen prior to an exhibition in Seoul 2016. I have known this site ever since the last building was demolished in 2002. There were plans about new apartment buildings. Apparently plans are still the same, but being neighbour to the headquarter of Hells Angel have seemed to make inventors hesitate. To great advantage to the plants. In the years that the site has been left to itself, plants have been thriving. I remember the big chestnut tree, but apart from that I wonder where all the other species come from. Most of the species to be found here, are amongst the most hardy existing, native as well as introduced. The soil is nutrient depleted; an ideal habitat for these species, and increasingly harder to find.

Elder flowers / *Sambucus nigra* / Almindelig Hyld
블랙엘더베리
Rosebay willowherb / *Chamerion angustifolium* / Alm.Gederams
양구스티폴리움카메리온
St. John's Wort / *Hypericum perforatum* / Prikbladet Perikon
서양고추나물
Perennial Pea / *Lathyrus latifolius* / Ærteblomst
스위트피
Curly Dock / *Rumex crispus* / Kruket Skræppe
소리쟁이
Scentless Mayweed/*Tripleurospermum perforatum*/Lugtløs Kamille
페르포라툼개꽃
Rough Chervil / *Chaerophyllum temulum* / Alm. Hulsvøb
테물룸케로필룸
Giant Hogweed / *Heracleum mantegazzianum* / Kæmpebjørneklo
만테가지아눔어수리
Common Poppy / *Papaver rhoeas* / Korn-Valmue
개양귀비
Fuller's teasel / *Dipsacus fullonum* / Gærde-kartebolle
플로눔산토끼꽃
Cornflower / *Centaurea cyanus* / Kornblomst
수레국화
Wall Barley / *Hordeum murinum* / Gold Byg
보리풀
Common Chicory / *Cichorium intybus* / Almindelig Cikorie
치커리
Crownvetch / *Securigera varia* / Giftig Kronvikke
왕관갈퀴나물
Narrowleaf Plantain / *Plantago lanceolata* / Lancet-Vejbred
창질경이
Lesser Burdock / *Arctium minus* / Liden Burre
미누스악티움
Common Reed / *Phragmites australis* / Tagrør
무늬갈대
Viper's bugloss / *Echium vulgare* / Slangehoved
불가레에키움
Common bugloss / *Anchusa officinalis* / Læge-Oksetunge
약양쿠사
Wild Mignonette / *Reseda lutea* / Gul Reseda
루테아레세다
Canada Thistle / *Cirsium arvense* / Ager-Tidsel
캐나다엉겅퀴
Common Mallow / *Malva sylvestris* / Almindelig Katost
당아욱

Plant Collection no. 9
512, Yeongdong-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
10.08.16

Seoul is a city that during recent decades has experienced an impressive growth in size, number of population and general standard of life. Only one generation ago there used to be fields of apple trees in Gangnam. Today it is densely build with high-rises and you can hardly find an empty plot of land here. It is the most expensive area of Seoul and famously known for extravagant fashion stores and living - and for a particular song. The site where these plants have been collected from is centrally situated in Gangnam. There used to be office buildings housing the governmental administrative of the City Electricity. That is - I was never allowed in but collected the plants from right underneath the fences from outside. Right opposite the site is a huge sculpture of the Gangnam Style hand position - in gold - known from the pop song hit by Korean PSY *Gangnam Style* in 2012. As the address is one of the last remaining building sites in the Gangnam area, it went into a historical intense bidding process between Samsung and Hyundai in becoming the new owner of the site. It was won by Hyundai with an unusual high bid.

Asiatic Dayflower / *Commelina communis* / Himmelblomst
닭의장풀

Frost Aster / *Aster pilosus* / Asters
미국쑥부쟁이 (IP)

Giant Foxtail / *Setaria faberii* / Skærmaks
가을강아지풀

Common Crabgrass / *Digitaria ciliaris* / Fingeraks
바랭이

Plant Collection no. 10
30 Tongui-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul
11.08.16

It has turned out to be difficult to find empty sites in Seoul. Sites I can enter and that are centrally located with a sense of being forgotten. Places where the vegetation during some years has been left to grow wild and for the time being has escaped the urban planning. This is the only real wasteland site of its kind I manage to find in whole of Seoul. It is hidden behind the main streets in a densely build area, the Gyeongbok area. It is a fairly small site, probably once built with a small traditional Korean house like the surrounding houses. However no one knows much about that or how long it has been abandoned for. They tell me it is hard to find out. The soil is very poor and the conditions for the plants are tough. The temperatures are unusually high this year for the month of August, but the plants still seem to cope. They are hardy species.

Giant Foxtail / *Setaria faberii* / Skærmaks
가을강아지풀

Common barnyardgrass / *Echinochloa crus-galli* / Hanespore
돌피

Rough potato / *Metaplexis japonica* / -
박주가리

Japanese elm / *Ulmus davidiana* var. *Japonica* / Japansk Elm
느릅나무

Horseweed / *Conyza canadensis* / Canadisk Bakkestjerne
망초

Frost Aster / *Aster pilosus* / Asters
미국쑥부쟁이 (IP)

Evening primrose / *Oenothera biennis* / Natlys
달맞이꽃 (IP)

Plant Collection no. 11
30 Tongui-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul
11.08.16

We have to climb the fence to enter the site. It makes me a little anxious and for a short moment I fear the consequences. As we make our observations, make notes and pick a variety of plants a man in a green shirt turns up and watches us. He seems very puzzled by what we are doing but he say nothing. It turns out he is a kind of care taker of the site and he knows a little about the ownership of the site. That is, he knows that they can't find the owner. But as several people are interested in the site no one can agree on what to do. The only thing he seems to care about is that we should not pick the cosmos, because someone planted them there. Unfortunately it is already too late. Amongst the twenty-nine species we have registered, I have chosen, and picked, the Cosmos as the primary flower for the next flower arrangement. Garden cosmos is native to Mexico but highly invasive in Korea, however in Denmark it is a beloved garden plant.

Garden cosmos / *Cosmos bipinnatus* / Stolt Kaveler
코스모스 (IP)

Rough Potato / *Metaplexis japonica* / -
박주가리

Frost Aster / *Aster pilosus* / Asters
미국쑥부쟁이 (IP)

Plant Collection no. 12
30 Tongui-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul
11.08.16

Another day of extreme hot weather. Even early out I don't have much time to work with the plants under these high temperatures. I have come early because this is also when the Evening primrose flower is still open. I am familiar with this plant from home, where it is a wild growing plant too. It is also to be found cultivated as a perennial in gardens, although it can prove a challenge to get it started. Evening primrose is a night flower and only flowers during the night. It attracts certain night insects. On this site it thrives as a bush which I have never seen before. It is a very beautiful flower. If you come across it do take the time to watch the flower unfold, it takes about half an hour. But it is not native to Korea and is classified invasive. From looking at the site you can tell it grows well in the Korean climate. I have had a guide taking me around the city. He tells me that all flowers for making flower bouquets in South Korea are imported from Holland, regardless that climate here is perfect for growing a great variety of flowers. Shortly after I have finished working at the site, all plants are cut down. As if serving to demonstrate that I should stay away.

Evening primrose / *Oenothera biennis* / Natlys
달맞이꽃 (IP)

Giant Foxtail / *Setaria faberii* / Skærmaks
가을강아지풀

Plant Collection no. 13
24, Jahamun-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
13.08.16

An old fashioned sashimi restaurant burned down in 2015 and the neighbouring parking lot saw the chance to expand their area. A strip of land between the parking area and the pavement was left with bare soil and not covered with concrete. A fence separates the private area from the street, but there seem to be no other deliberate plan than that. Instead a random variety of plants seem to have made their own plan.

Giant Foxtail / *Setaria faberii* / Skærmaks
가을강아지풀

Common Crabgrass / *Digitaria ciliaris* / Fingeraks
바랭이

Common barnyardgrass / *Echinochloa crus-galli* / Hanespore
돌피

Spiny Sow-thistle / *Sonchus asper* / Ru Svinemælk
큰방가지뚥 (IP)

Awed Rice Galingale / *Cyperus microiria* / Fladaks
금방동사니

Lance-leaved Tickseed / *Coreopsis lanceolata* / Skønhedsøje
큰금계국 (IP)

Velvetleaf / *Abutilon theophrasti* / Kinajute
어저귀 (IP)

White goosefoot / *Chenopodium album* / Hvidmelet Gåsefod
흰명아주