

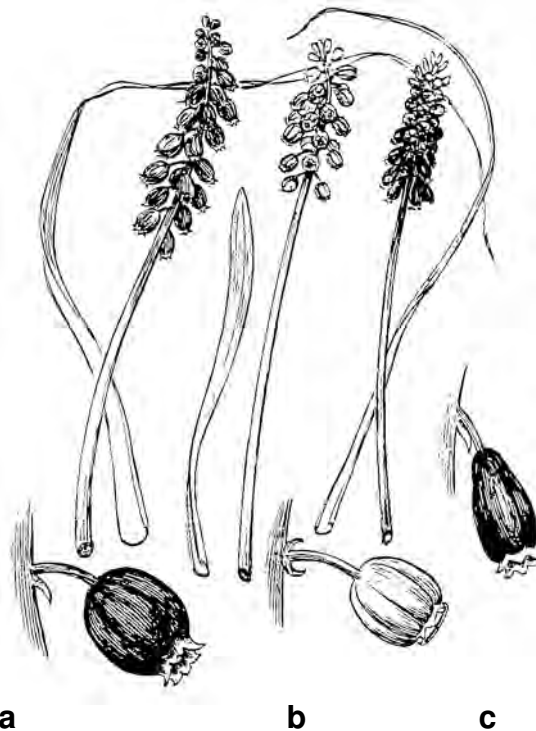
MUSCARI

The illustrations and notes can be used in conjunction with the key in Stace's *New Flora* to help identify the following three similar species (*M. comosum* (L.) Mill., Tassel hyacinth, is obviously different to these with its erect tassels of upper flowers).

M. armeniacum Leichtlin ex Baker (Fig a) has lighter blue flowers than *M. neglectum*, and they become paler as they age (these are drawn a little dark). The flowers are scentless to most people.

M. botryoides (L.) Mill. (Fig. b) has a more globose perianth, scentless flowers, strongly recurved perianth teeth, two subtending bracteoles and broad short leaves.

M. neglectum Guss. ex Ten. (Fig. c) has deep blue flowers which turn blue-black as they age, and has a curious smell, supposedly of starch.



Muscari.
(a) *M. armeniacum*,
(b) *M. botryoides*,
(c) *M. neglectum*.

Author G. M. S. Easy, January 1998.