

***Crocus* Group Bulletin No. 41 : Summer 2012**

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Hon Sec Notes.

Welcome to the latest *Crocus* Group Newsletter. Since we moved to email for distribution of the newsletter I have become aware of issues with members not receiving their newsletters. This may be due to anti-spam programs on recipients computers and email programs or perhaps due to the size of the attached file. I would like to apologise to anyone who has not received the newsletter in 2010 or 2011. I can resend to anyone who asks. Hopefully these problems will be reduced by the measures I have taken this year.

A big thank you to Janis Ruksans for the major article in this edition, without which we would have a very short newsletter. Please consider making a contribution in future. Comments on your method of cultivation, successes and failures will be of interest to other members and increase our shared knowledge. I would also welcome articles from members with knowledge of the new taxa that continue to be described.

Tony Goode

20th Anniversary *Crocus* Group Seed Exchange

The aim of the seed exchange is to get *Crocus* seed to members as close as possible to the correct time for them to be sown for optimal germination. *Crocus* seed has been shown to germinate best if sown during the higher temperatures of late summer before the lower temperatures of autumn and winter initiate germination. The best time for sowing is therefore at the same time as nature does it in the wild, that is when the ripe seed is expelled from the mature seedpod in late spring to early summer. For this reason we ask donors to send seed as soon as possible after they have collected it, and in any case before 31st of July. During the first week of August a seed list is compiled and sent to members who have requested a copy by sending an e-mail request or a stamped addressed envelope, before the 31st of July.

Members should indicate on the seed list request form which seeds they want up to a limit of 30 packets, and the form should be returned by e-mail or surface mail before the 31st of August. About the 1st week of September the seeds are divided between the members who request them, **with donors getting first choice**, although non donors always get a good deal. You will receive your seeds within a few weeks after that. They should be sown immediately and left exposed to the weather until they germinate, after which they may be brought under cover.

Donations of seed and requests for a seed list should be sent, before 31st July to: -

David Stephens, 76 South Terrace, Dorking, Surrey. RH4 2AQ, UK, or for an e-mailed seed list to:

thecrocusgroup@hotmail.com

To recap:

Rule 1. If you are a donor, send seed before 31st July

Rule 2. If you are not a donor but want a seed list, send an e-mail or SAE before 31st July

Donors always get first choice and very rare seed in short supply invariably goes to them. However, non-donors get a fair proportion of what they ask for and always get a good deal.

The *Crocus* Group seed exchange has been very successful and instrumental in getting most of the known *Crocus* taxa into cultivation. When I managed to persuade Primrose Warburg to allow the first seed exchange in 1992, it was very difficult to get hold of many *Crocus* taxa, even some of those we would consider fairly common by today's standards.

One of my frustrations as curator of the exchange over the years has been that for the rarer taxa there are never enough seeds to make more than just a few packets. Obviously, most members request these so most will not receive them. These are distributed by a blind draw among the donors. Very occasionally there are enough rare seeds to allow everyone to have a packet such as with *Crocus michelsonii* in 2007. This year I have had a good seed set on my *Crocus almeheensis* so there will be enough seed to give some to any significant donor who requests it.

Can I urge members to make an effort to try to get seeds from their plants and to swap them in the seed exchange; this is one of the major ways to increase their availability and your collection.

Members Small Ad!

Alpines- Home and Away. Cultivation and Exploration. **Saturday 8th September 2012**

A One Day Conference at The Abbey Conference Centre, Norwich.

- 900 Registration. Tea/Coffee. Plant Stalls open
- 1000 Introduction
- 1005 **Using Every Square Inch** - Harry Jans
- 1105 Break
- 1130 **Propagation Techniques** - Kit Strange
- 1200 Lunch - Extended break giving time for:
 - Propagation Demonstrations by Kit Strange
 - Photographic Display & Plant Sales
 - Free access to the courtyard gardens and the ruins of the 14th C. abbey
- 1400 **Nature, The Gardeners Tutor** - Ian Young
- 1500 Break
- 1520 **A World of Alpines** - Harry Jans
- 1630 Speakers Forum
- 1700 Conference Close
- Leading Nurseries in Attendance. Members 50/50 stall. Corms and Bulbs also on Sale

Admission Costs £25 which includes light refreshments during the day and a Buffet Lunch provided by the Centre Caterers. There is a separate dining room and outdoor terrace if the weather is fine.

More info: Tony Goode 01603 409074 thealpinehouse@hotmail.co.uk

Off Road in Turkey. Janis Ruksans

My second trip this year was to SW Turkey. I had fantastic companion and guide on Turkish mountains who really ensured all success of my trip. Without his driving skills we never could reach those mountaintops where some rare crocuses grow. My partner was our forumist Ibrahim and I learned a lot from him, and greatest lecture was - never stop and never return from your target halfway (I many times would return if Ibrahim would not be driver). Roads really were horrible - usable by tractor only (by my opinion), not for Renault-Symbol what we rented.

But I must return to travel step by step. In Turkey (as in Latvia, too) returned real winter. First shock I got in Istanbul Airport when I saw on screen that temperature in Antalya is



minus 3 C. And that in March, in Antalya, on Mediterranean coast! Ibrahim maid car reservation, but we at first checked resin on wheels and accepted only third offered car with only 20 000 km on odometer with good trod on wheels. I'm attaching picture of our car that was our main tool in this short-time but not short in mileage trip. During four days we passed 2000 km - so in average 500 km in day.

We slept first night in my usual Lemon Hotel on W side of Antalya and morning view through our room's window was not promising. I many times was in Antalya but never saw so much snow on neighbour mountains. Internet picture of urkey immediately stripe out our main target of this trip - *Crocus lydius*. Map shows that this part of Turkey is under deep snow. So we start to North in direction of Denizli

but quite soon we decided that it is not worth, so we turned to West in direction to Muğla, where Ibrahim some years ago found locality of *Crocus fauseri* (when it still was not named by Erich Pasche), hoping that at least this place will be without snow. At Korkuteli we turn west through snow covered mountain sides. Near Bekciller there are some crocus-like spots without snow - so we maid small stop - and there they were - nothing special - *Crocus danfordiae* - but very nice bright yellowish form. Another plant blooming there was *Cyclamen trockopteranthon*. As I'm interested in corm tunics, I dug out one plant to picture underground parts. It was not easy as soil were frozen up to 10 cm deep. Same was almost everywhere.



After short discussion about priorities we decided to go for *Crocus fauseri* - just recently described by Erich Pasche. Ibrahim found this crocus few years ago during one of his trips and after Erich's article understood that he found just *C. fauseri*. Search of locality on Google map confirmed that Ibrahim's and Erich's localities are the same. Really without Ibrahim who speaks Turkish, of course, wouldn't be easy to find where road up starts. When we leave asphalt my eyes open wide. I never could have courage to drive by such road. It is windy, sometimes very narrow, but fortunately frozen, so not slippery. At some spots we step out to look how better to pass some turn where melting snow waters cut deep ridges and in some places we even are placing stones at spots which wheels must to pass to make those ridges passable. I several times offer to Ibrahim to stop and follow on foot but he continues higher and higher. Then our road is crossed by large fallen pine tree. Fortunately some cut narrow pass through trunk some 10 cm wider than our car, but we must take out branches from bottom. Unfortunately I can't help Ibrahim as my right hand isn't at best shape - I'm living on painkillers. But finally we pass the spot without scraps on car sides. Further road is better but regardless at every wider spot I offer to stop for turning car back and walking up on foot.



But top is not very far - and there it is - *Crocus fauseri* in company of *Crocus fleischeri* and *C. cancellatus*. A little higher starts snow. There are flowers of *C. fauseri*, too (on snowless spots) but soil is frozen hard. With some efforts it was possible to dig out some corms for collection and corm tunic pictures. Fortunately still some evening sun keeps some flowers half open. One of best is bud with quite prominent yellow shade. As you can see from habitat shot - conditions for this crocus is quite hard. It is growing in small pockets of soil between those stones and a lot we saw just on road. The greatest surprise for us was well expressed, long side growing stolones from single *Crocus fleischeri* corm dug by us. They are longer and fatter even than in case of *C. herbertii*. Such *C. fleischeri* plants are mentioned by Brian Mathew in his monograph, but I never saw such by myself before. Road down is easier and it is completely dark when we reach hotel in Milosh.



Crocus fauseri



Crocus fauseri habitat



Crocus fauseri + Ibrahim Solzen



Further variation in *Crocus fauseri*



Crocus fleischeri from Bencik Dag (*C. fauseri* neighbour) showing apparent stolons

We had very good evening meal in restaurant with glass of wine for me. My right shoulder is very painful, so I'm using painkillers and sleeping tab for night. Frozen soil was too hard experience for me. Next day we have two targets - number one is *Crocus biflorus* subsp.

caricus, and after that we decide to search another novelty - subsp. yatanensis. Still remain hope to find somewhere subsp. ionopharynx. Both - yatanensis and ionopharynx flowers inside is blue, so easy separable from white caricus and fauseri.

A day before in late evening when around was dark we visited one of Ibrahim's localities of crocus marked by him as "caricus?". In second attempt driving in by small round we found his locality recognised by large gravel heap staying there for years. After short look around we spotted this crocus, just on side of pine forest. Soil was frozen so hard that it was impossible to check corm tunics but heating flower by breathing on it and slightly helping opening - we found that it really is caricus. The attached picture shows that filament colour can vary a lot. In morning we are going to Labranda - locus clasicus for autumn Crocus nerimaniae. It is my fourth visit to Labranda. At first time I was there in mid summer and found some crocuses which turned heavy virus infected nerimaniae, but between those were two corms of perfect healthy caricus, too. Thinking that all is nerimaniae one reached Rik's collection, other went to Gothenburg BG labelled as nerimaniae.

After so bad experience (virus) I went there in autumn and found that less than 10% of plants seem to be healthy. But in flowering time it was possible to collect few healthy specimens for further propagation by seeds. Last year I went there in spring to look for more caricus. All forest looked as ploughed up by wild boars. It was very difficult to find some crocus especially for deep fog and fine rain all the day. Few I spotted but flowers were too damaged by water for checking. Now weather was marvellous, but again there "worked" wild collectors - crocus lovers. Turkish people are not eating pig's meat, so no one is hunting wild boars. It was very difficult to find even few leaves but in one small spot we finally found few blooming crocuses and they really were very typical caricus. Soil is frozen and temperature regardless of sun is only around zero. You can judge by small picture of icesticks in pine forest.

On spot we decided to change our plans and to go further to few mountains not visited by Ibrahim before hoping to find there subsp. yatanensis - described by Erich "from mountains near Yatan". Ibrahim visited almost every mountain around before, and found nothing. Still left a pair not visited - so we will go there





Crocus caricus – showing some variation and detail.

So after visiting Labranda and seeing how deep frozen soil in so mild district as this one was, we turn back to main road and drive to direction of Yatagan. Using good map of Ibrahim we easy find selected road and drive in by narrow but good asphalt road to selected village. There some problems started. So many splits and you can't judge which one turns further or only to some more isolated house. Paving was the same - small stone chips. Seeing nice and small sparsely pine forested slope we turn a little back and check this one, but nothing more than C. fleischeri there was in bloom. But at least some crocus we saw.

After some talk with local people Ibrahim got information that there is some road to hilltop - we simply must drive in direction to Kavak (Poplar) village and before that must take left

road. Again it was some shock for my nerves, but in any case road was far better than yesterday to C. fauseri location. We stopped in a pair of spots but without any crocus - nor spring, nor autumn were there. I collected only a pair of Gagea sp. for my German friends making DNA research on them. Further by road forest around just recently was cut off and road was closed by tractor taking off timber. After some waiting it opened for our car narrow space for just passing between gorge and car wheels.

For my horror Ibrahim drives up and up. Almost to snowline where road became too moody and slippery for melting snow water. Bright sun defrosted road surface and finally Ibrahim agree to turn around car. This spot you can see at first picture of this report. The place is covered by dense shrubs of dwarf oaks with spiny leaves and other shrubs but some passes guide us through to some slightly stone covered meadow - and there it is - nice white blooming biflorus crocus. As in Labranda - all around is ploughed up by wild boars, so we found crocus only at stones, but at least soil here is much less stony comparing with C. fauseri location. Checking of flowers shows that this is only the same subsp. caricus seen before at Labranda, although altitude is much higher - 980 m. No reason to walk up as very soon starts total covering by snow. So we decide to turn back, hoping that still we will have time (daylight) for another peak near Čina city.



Crocus caricus and habitat

But now I will return to our trip. Quite easy we found road into mountains from Čina city. It is good quality asphalt and soon we are at last village border where we must to turn in direction

to Yaila by dirty roads. And there our problems start. There are such labyrinth of junctions, turns, dead ends etc that decide which one is correct isn't easy. Unfortunately we haven't "Ariadne thread" guiding us by correct way. Even Ibrahim's laptop on which Google Earth shows each smallest path didn't help much due some mistake in data entering, which marks our present position. At several spots Ibrahim fills gaps on road with stones for we could drive further. Then we made incorrect turn what guided our car to stream passable only by tractor. On the roadside I saw few spots where crocuses could grow, but we wanted to reach higher altitudes, so not stopped there.

Our road ended at nice stream below cascade of small waterfalls. As we stepped out Ibrahim spotted first crocuses - beautiful *C. chrysanthus* population with quite great percentage of specimens with dark brown speckled back of petals. It is the first spot during our trip where soil is not frozen so we can collect few corms without great problems. But only slightly higher where is more shaded - soil again is frozen stone hard. There are blooming snowdrops, *Scilla bifolia*, *Gagea* sp. The last comes out from splits of rocks, so I can't reach some bulb for my German friends.

It becomes darker and we must to turn back. Finally we found our mistake and now laptop shows where we did wrong turn, but it is too late to correct. Yaila must be left for another year.

On way back Ibrahim stops at nice spot "to wash hands in stream". I well understand that it is only reason to check the neighbour meadow - just that one which I noted when we came here. And follows his - *Janis - biflorus* is here. Unfortunately it again is "only" subsp. *caricus*. But in last sun we make some pictures as soil here is frozen hard, too.

Now we must turn to direction of Antalya. So we still will stay without *biflorus yatağanensis*. Another subsp. which could grow in explored district is subsp. *ionopharynx*. For great surprise for myself, today I found that I have good stock of it in my collection under name of subsp. *nubigena*. I got this one several years ago under such name from Gothenburg BG.

It quickly becomes dark, but road is good and soon we are near coast at Kalkan city from which tomorrow we will go again inside Turkey to North. Surprisingly easy I spotted Kelebek Hotel located just on roadside but turned away that car noise don't miss night sleep. I accidentally spotted this very comfortable family run hotel with fantastic meals few years ago and since that I always try to sleep there.





All our hotels were moderate priced - 30,- Euro for room with two beds inclusive breakfast. Good, clean, comfortable. Only two faults - water not so hot as we would like due absolute out of season's time - In Kelebek Hotel we were single guests. Another fault breakfast starts only at 8 o'clock (in Kelebek - 7-30). We would prefer earlier. It is third day of our trip. At first we go to another coastline city - Kaš from where we turn up in mountains to Tuzla Tepe from where Erich Pasche mentions some *Crocus* close to *nubigena*. We want to find it. Rocks on roadsides are too steep to walk up and our first stop is behind first village at some clearings in forest at 994 m altitude. Oh yes, there are plenty of crocuses but unfortunately only autumn bloomers - *Crocus cancellatus* and some of *pallasii* group - may be *mathewii* or *asumaniae*, collected by me few years ago something NW from this spot. There I'm collecting a pair other *Gagea* sp. for my German friends, blooming at bush-side of very sunny meadow. Everywhere are blooming beautiful *Romulea tempskyana*. Something further road goes down but we turn to right to good asphalt road going to Asar dag - highest peak over Kaš. Few stops on road to yaila give us nothing - only same autumn blooming crocuses are growing there. We stop at middle of yaila, further road guides to military camp and radio-location station, not the best place to visit with photo camera in hands. So we go up to ridge up to its top where steep rocks start down up to sea. There are plenty of crocuses, but again the same autumn bloomers. And everywhere are spring *colchicums* - many times giving impression of crocus when seen from distance. Returning back to yaila we start search below large sparse conifers growing on border where yaila turns to rocks. And there it is - first spring bloomer with annulate tunics. On spot we decide that it could be *biflorus* - white with dotted back of petals. Although similar by flower to *danfordiae*, it seems too large for this name. Now I more tend to think that it was only whitish *danfordiae*. Will see later when few collected plants will start blooming here.





View from Asar Dag



Asar Dag yaila



Crocus danfordiae

We did great mistake in morning - didn't refuelled our car. Going up by steep road took a lot of fuel. Having bad earlier experience when I several times reached fuel station by last drops on fuel in my car (once even pushed it by hand last meters to fuel pump) I'm panicking and force Ibrahim to turn back

to coastline although further road through valley seems very promising.

We return to Kalkan where just at turn to Belpinar Beli - famous *Crocus mathewii* locality - is petrol station and refuelled we go up to Belpinar Beli, hoping that there will not be snow. But its altitude overpasses 1000 m and regardless of proximity to coastline both roadsides are covered by snow. Only at very top snow melted on some roadside clearings. But we found only *Crocus danfordiae* there. Really meadow where it blooms is so covered by rubbish that I couldn't find good view for picturing of it.





Crocus danfordiae variants

Further by road Ibrahim show me nice locality of bluish member of *Crocus biflorus* group. It is located not far from Elmali, on open stony field where I never would stop for *Crocus* search. I would more like just opposite side of road where by Ibrahim he found no one *crocus*. But just this one - open to all winds very moderate slope is full of them. Wind is very hard and cold. Soil is frozen but flowers are blooming, mostly closed but some even opened petals for bright cold winter-like sun. I have no idea which subsp. it could be. Altitude is very high for this trip 1210 m. Most likely on so open landscape snow simply was blown away by strong winds. It is last acquisition for me during this trip. Further I'm only picturing as I'm really revisiting spots visited a year before or earlier, but I want to show Ibrahim some localities and plants

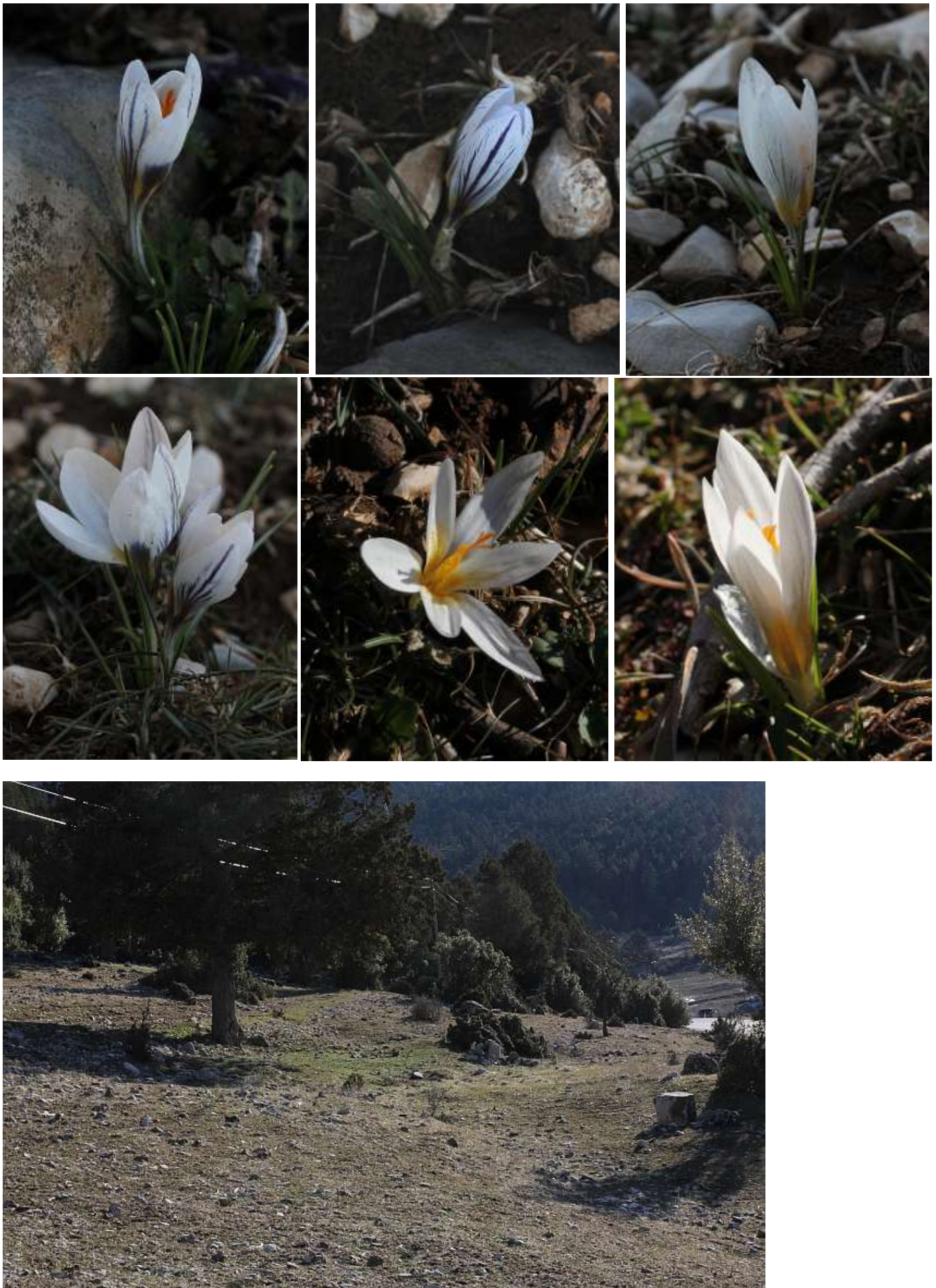




Crocus biflorus ssp.

Our next stop is near Avlan Golu where a year before I collected *Crocus beydaglarensis* just recently described by Erich Pasche. I suppose that it must be *locus classicus* as description of habitat and neighbour plants is identical with that given by Erich.

It is afternoon and flowers start to close but some good pictures of *C. beydaglarensis* we can receive but *C. baytopiorum* in general closed its flowers in tight buds. Only at small still sunny spot some flowers are open. Here *C. baytopioum* is growing on stone-slips. It is quite unusual place for crocuses.



Crocus beydaglarensis and habitat



Crocus baytopiorum variants

I still hope that it will be possible to show Ibrahim locus classicus of *C. flavus sarichinarensis* described in my book.

After two days of experiments I finally learned how to operate with my navigator. Really it is excellent if you know how to get all options - the format of coordinates (I still prefer grades, minutes and seconds instead of decimal system). That I found quite soon, but to find how to

see altitude took me more than two days. Sometimes I got this option, but then suddenly in mysterious way lost and again pushed button by button searching how returns it to mood liked by me. Now I think that I will know it forever.

Navigator is excellent tool. Unfortunately it sometimes selects shortest way but it doesn't mean that it is fastest and best road. It is our case, too. We are guided by narrow village streets, but road isn't very bad. On street side I enjoy small antique amphitheatre at Limyra and then road guides us in mountains to Altinyaka. Still remain some hope to reach it during daylight. But hopes suddenly are broken by huge stones crossing the road at current turn. There are built up new road and we must return losing at least 2 hours. It would be my decision, but car is guided by Ibrahim. Starts road nightmare - steep, narrow, muddy, winding by almost vertical slope somewhere up. Dividing endless times where we must to hope that selected correct turn. Several times we took wrong direction entering some farmhouse. Ibrahim can speak with locals, but I can't understand how he remembers after which side road he must take left or right direction. Road quality becomes more and more worth. After last talk with some strange man who is more interested why we came there than to explain where to drive further and small part of really horrible quality road part we suddenly jump on narrow asphalt. It guides us down just after road block spot. But it is dark now to find some plant. Even more - everything around is in snow. I quite easy spot the



locality of *C. flavus sarichinarensis* covered by snow but Ibrahim turns car in way that its lights give some light on roadside slopes and goes with my mobile telephone light to search crocus. I remember how last year I showed this spot in same darkness to my other Turkish friends and how we searched this

crocus by mobile telephone lights. And then we found it! Now the locality is covered in too deep snow and Ibrahim can't spot any crocus.

Next stop is at locality where I collected some years ago some *C. biflorus* and *C. antalyensis*. The last is one of Ibrahim's plants of top interest. But it is dark and seems that all is still in deep snow. Quite soon we reach Antalya and our Lemon Hotel. Tomorrow will be last day of our common trip and we will go to East.

(Pictures from Altinyaka surroundings are from my earlier trips there.)



2008 – I found it!



Crocus sarichinarensis



Crocus sarchinarenis variants



Crocus antalyensis variants

My last day of this short trip started. Final point is the target by which I wanted to start this trip - *Crocus roseoviolaceus* described by Erich at his locus classicus. My point was at much lower altitude and more to West from locus classicus, but due snow situation in situ, we changed priorities. Now our first point is spot so much visited by plant lovers that may be not worth even mention this. For me it will be at least fifth time when I'm going there. It is Gundogmus - place from where *Iris pamphylicus* is described and still growing there and it is locus classicus for *Iris stenophylla allisonii*.

Last spring when I was there it was non-stop "raining cats and dogs", so impossible to step out of car. Now day is nice and sunny.

I have in my collection all plants from Gundogmus, although only *Iris pamphylica* I saw there blooming in nature few years ago. It is very rare there, but even now I spotted few leaf tips coming out. How it looks in cultivation you can see in *Iris reticulata* entries of this forum (entry of Hans 27th of February). My target to go there is to see the variability of *Crocus antalyensis* at this spot and may be to find some of biflorus group. At my first trip there in 2003 I collected 1 corm of it - and it was with white stigma, as described for subsp. *striatus*, but lacking stripes on inner petals. At further visits I found few *antalyensis* out of flowers, but few collected still not bloomed with me. It is not the best grower with me.

Ibrahim is very interested in this species, too as he may be found new subspecies of *antalyensis* but more research is needed to know its variability. It is first time when I'm so early there and some kilometres before village we stop at nice mountain plato of mixed small rock outcrops, meadows and shrubs. And first flowers are there - *Crocus chrysanthus* - most with brown speckled back as in famous 'Gundogmus Bronze' variety selected in Gothenburg's BG from plants collected just there. Unfortunately I forgot to change my camera settings for so bright sun, so most pictures of *C. chrysanthus* were overexposed. But there are many *Iris stenophylla allisonii* in full bloom just now. I never saw so much of this very difficult in cultivation iris growing here. Usually cattle take off a lot of leaves. After long search I finally found one plant of *C. antalyensis* with water-damaged flower, but opening it saw that stigma is orange, it means that my white stigma plant is only unusual form.

We didn't see any biflorus, may be too early, but between my gatherings from here in summer I got only *C. chrysanthus*, too. It is quite surprising as only slightly further in N direction are plenty of *chrysanthus* and biflorus *isauricus*.



Crocus chrysanthus - Gundogmus



Crocus chrysanthus and *Iris stenophylla allisonii* – Gundogmus

Now we are going in direction to Akseki - Ibradi. Ibrahim wants to see *Crocus isauricus* blooming in nature. As closer we go to Ibradi as more snow we have on roadsides and after Ibradi everything are covered in very deep snow. Soon after pass road is closed by police - it is dangerous to drive in daylight for possible avalanches, so we turn back. In any case there would be nothing to see. From pictures you can judge how deep was snow in place where meadows are covered with beautiful *isauricus*. I'm adding picture from my collection pictured 2 days ago in my greenhouse.

On way back to coast before getting road from Beyshekir to Manavgat we cross deep valley between ridges. At bottom is nice river with very good restaurant something hided from road but well marked by signpost at bridge. I'm always stopping there for fabulous grilled trout (ala-balik) and as Ibrahim is driver - I can enjoy very good cold Turkish Efes-bira - very good beer produced in Turkey. At this trip it is my first and last bottle of beer slowly enjoyed during fish becomes ready. Photo below – *Crocus* seen at Gembos yaila 2010





Gembos Yaila 2012

Would like to stay there longer but we still hope to reach in daylight *Crocus roseoviolaceus* growing N and NE from Alanya. To find the road isn't problems. I was there twice before (initiated by Dave's fantastic pictures on Forum) - two years ago I was there at 4th of March and it was far too late - impossible to spot crocus leaves in long grass. Last year 22nd of February with other Turkish friends we found this crocus at peak of blooming regardless of almost non-stop rain, and prepared its description for publishing in September, when Erich published the same species in June. So our job was lost, but Erich included so much in exploring of biflorus crocuses in Turkey that I can only admire his efforts and simply can step back giving him all priority. Now again is 4th of March, but never before I saw so much snow at Akseki (I pictured there crocuses in full bloom 22nd of February)

Road up isn't so easy as before. There are road jobs but it is Sundays afternoon when city people returns from holiday picnics, so our driving up is not as fast as we would like it. And as higher we are as more snow on roadsides. Now it is certain that it is not worth to go Erick's locus classicus - remain only hope that I could show this beauty to Ibrahim at my locality (may be same as Dave's) which is only at slightly higher altitude than 700 m (not more than 1000 m as at Erick's place).

But road at which side I found it last year is closed by snow and not passable. Google Earth shows winding streets deep down to village and then up - may be we can reach the spot from opposite side. Knowing Ibrahim's driving skills from previous days I'm not protesting more. And starts our labyrinth drive... There were places where even with Ibrahim's skills I closed my eyes as both sides of asphalt were deeply washed off by snowmelt waters and left only narrow strip between. At least two hours we try to approximate the spot and when we are there it is completely dark, started night. Yes, regardless of night I recognise the place and Ibrahim took my mobile telephone using its lights walk up to search *roseoviolaceus*. After some 10 minutes he returns asking for my help. He found some cut off *Castanea* trees below which this crocus is grow here. This is quickly developing part for holiday house building and this small spot between houses will go under building, too. Job just started. I'm stopping at first tree and in few minutes three plants are found - the first with wilted flower, second without and the third with nice fresh flower. It is full night and single natural light comes from Moon. Ibrahim got what he wanted and now we must try to find road back. Again helps Ibrahim's Turkish language. Soon we stop the lorry going to coast and now left only to follow him. It is some 15 minutes longer way but not so slippery as that used by us before. It is night and all holiday drivers are at their homes. We are at our Lemon Hotel in Antalya half past eleven. For me is packing and early morning Ibrahim brings me to Airport.

Janis Ruksans

