



SRGC Edinburgh Show

11th April 2015

Forrest Medal won by Cyril Lafong for

Hymenoxys acaulis var. *caespitosa*



The numbers “51” are to remind us that this is Cyril’s fifty-first success in winning the award for “the most meritorious plant” in an SRGC show. Cyril is no stranger to winning a Farrer Medal from the AGS, either, but I’ve long since run out of fingers and toes to count on, so I make no more mention of that! Cyril does seem unstoppable – who will challenge him?



Anne Spiegel from New York State commented on photos of the winning plant shown online: ..”great pictures of a great plant. It will grow in a sunny scree - doesn't need a trough. How marvelous to see a wonderful American westerner win the Forrest Medal. Congratulations to Cyril Lafong, who can apparently grow absolutely everything!”



Panayoti Kelaidis, of Denver Botanic Garden, again seeing the plant on social media, reminded us that the plant is once more regarded as a *Tetraneuris* and provided a photo (below) of *Tetraneuris acaulis* on Horseshoe Mt., Colorado at <4000m

***Hymenoxys acaulis* var. *caespitosa*)
(A.Nelson) K.F.Parker is a synonym of
Tetraneuris acaulis var. *caespitosa*
A.Nelson.**

Having achieved his 50th Forrest Medal at Kincardine in March, an achievement which was duly broadcast on TV, on the Beechgrove Garden, Cyril started on his second half century at Edinburgh winning with an American member of the Asteraceae. *Hymenoxys acaulis* grows in relatively dry habitats in west/central USA and parts of Canada. This is a very variable plant with at least four recognisably distinct varieties reflecting varying growing conditions over its



range. Some are taller than others; var. *caespitosa* is a ground hugging form and thus of interest to rock gardeners. It grows on dry, poor soils on windswept uplands pointing to the need for open free draining compost and maximum light if it is to maintain its compact shape in cultivation. Cyril says he grows it in a clay pot plunged in sand in the alpine house and given full sun. A very gritty John Innes based compost is used. In winter the plant is not watered directly although the plunge is kept slightly damp. An occasional dose of ½ strength high potash fertiliser is given in the growing season.



The Forrest Medal plant on the show bench, centre, with its fellow plants in Cyril's winning three pan entry.

A SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB PROFESSIONAL MEDAL CARD may be awarded to a plant, exhibited on a trade or professional display, which in the opinion of the judges is of the same standard as expected for the Forrest Medal.



An SRGC Professional Medal was also awarded at this show - it was made to *Erythronium multiscapideum*, shown on the RBGE display, staged by the Alpine Dept. of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. **Congratulations!**
See more of the Edinburgh Show in the reports page of the site & in the Forum.