



The Scottish Rock Garden Club Forrest Medal Blackpool 2013



Best Plant in the Show *Cyclamen alpinum leucanthemum* [**Cyclamen trochopteranthum forma leucanthemum*] shown by Dave Riley



Everyone knew, as soon as they laid eyes on it, that the pan of *Cyclamen* sitting alone at the end of the first bench was a winner! Here nestled the finest pan-full, [YES FULL!], of the smallest *Cyclamen* species there is. The 10 inch pan filled with palest pink flowers of *Cyclamen alpinum leucanthemum* quite took my breath away. I can hear 'Berlin' singing the song in brain as I write this report.

Dave Riley has mastered the art of cultivation this tricky wee species. It grows in pine, juniper or cedar woodland at 350 -1500m in an area SW of Antalya. In cultivation esp up north it is usually grown under glass in pots but it is suggested that it could grow in a well drained raised bed.

The species [*trochopteranthum*] has darker flowers than the form *leucanthemum*, which are of the palest pink with a darker magenta blotch at the base of each petal. The flowers differ from other *Cyclamen* in that they look like wee propellers. This is because the petals are reflexed by 90 degrees rather than by

180 degrees as is usual in other species of cyclamen.

I find all the spring flowering *Cyclamen* except *C. coum* to have their foibles and that they can be very tricky to get into flower. *C. alpinum* must like life in the Southern Lake District.

Dave is well and truly Top Gun!

* Far be it from me to question a plant name but it appears that the *Cyclamen* Society recognises it has now been recognised as *Cyclamen trochopteranthum forma leucanthemum*

