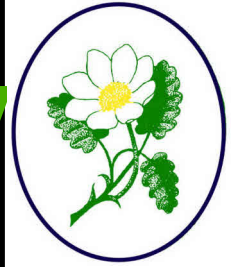




The Scottish Rock Garden Club
Grantown on Spey
2013



Starting on a personal note of shame. This is the first Discussion Weekend show in over 20 years which I have not entered any plants. Its amazing how many people, who rarely if ever show plants, comment when some long time supporter of the show benches like me does not enter for some reason or other. I found myself apologising for lack of space in my car! I will try to do better next time! The main reason was that my car was full of my case and clothes as well as other SRGC stuff for the Discussion Weekend. This time I drove in our Volvo S60 saloon and realised just how much I depend on our other vehicle the Volvo V70. Its quite amazing just how many plant pots and crates that you can stuff in the V70 beside personal stuff. Now there's 3 mentions of Volvo [4 now], perhaps I'll get a free one! Despite the absence of my plants the show had as big an entry as ever. The show was held in the Grant Arms Hotel in Granton on Spey, just north of the Cairngorm mountains beside the River Spey. Both these facts should tempt you there next year. The food was good too!

The number of plants was probably up on previous years. There were lots of shrubby and foliage plants and ferns as well as the expected cyclamen, gentians and autumn bulbs.

Roma Fiddes, Stan da Prato, Shelagh and Brian Smethurst and Jean Wyllie filled half the space between them Well done all and the other exhibitors for putting on such a great show.

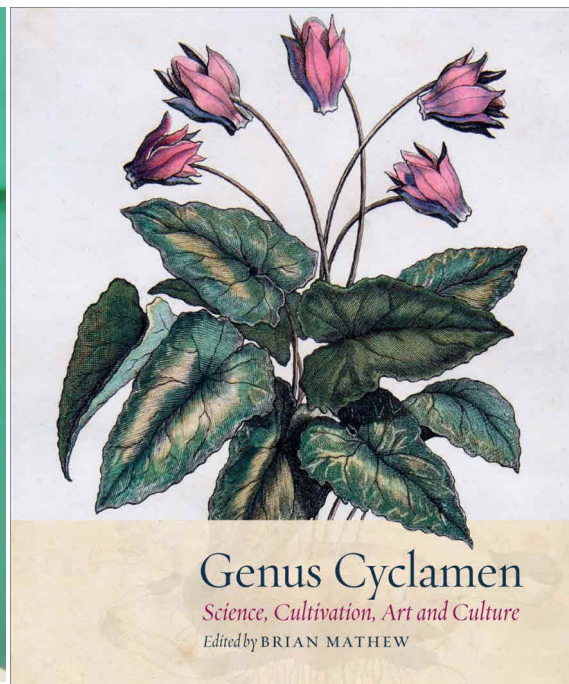


The Forrest Medal for Best Plant in the Show was awarded to a superb example of the dainty Cyclamen mirabile grown and shown by Cyclamen Queen Roo c Fiddes. For years Roo c has brought wonderful cyclamen to the Discussion Weekend shows. She is one of the few people up here in Scotland who can flower Cyclamen rj lfsianum well. She had two super rj lfsianums as well this year. Roma's were the first Cyclamen hederifoliums with narrow arrow shaped leaves. I think these were at a Bearsden weekend. Ian

Christie also produces cyclamen with unusual and beautifully marked leaves. Jean Wyllie and Glassford Sprunt have mastered the wee autumn species, C. o irabile, intaminatum and cilicium in their pink and white forms.



The pictures show Roma's Cyclamen mirabile and rohlfsianum and also her explaining Cyclamen cultivation to Cyril who so far does not show plants at the discussion weekend, very often, if at all.



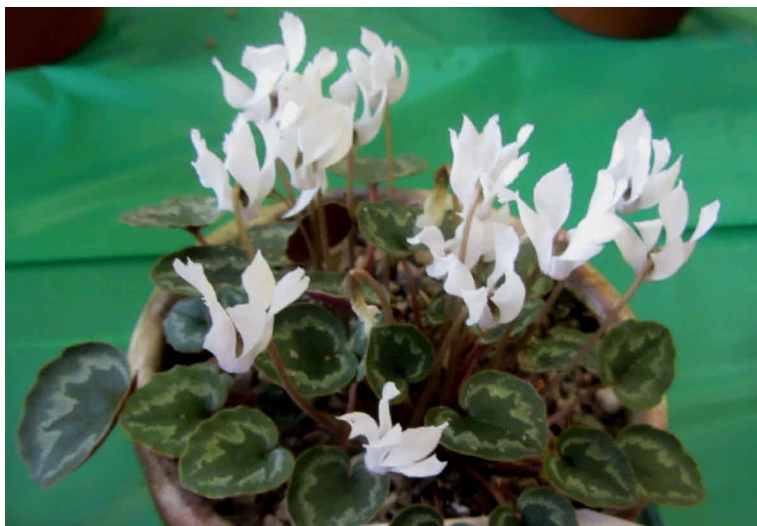
Cyclamen colchicum Here is a rarity indeed!

Shown by Jean Wyllie and grown from seed of her own plants it is obviously happy in Wallace Road.

According to the Cyclamen Society who know all about these wee gems, *C. colchicum* grows in an isolated location in the south-west Caucasus Mountains, inland from the eastern coast of the Black Sea, in an area of the Transcaucasum which used to be known as Adzhar, now part of Georgia. It grows in woodland on dolomitic limestone, amongst tree roots and in rock crevices. It is to be found at altitudes of 300-800m (985 - 2,625 ft). It was once thought to be a subspecies of *Cyclamen purpurascens*. Kit Grey-Wilson is quoted as saying 'the most obvious feature[of difference between *C. colchicum* and *C. Purpurascens*] as being the very thick and leathery leaves, saying that they are thicker and more fleshy in *C. Colchicum* than any other *Cyclamen* species.

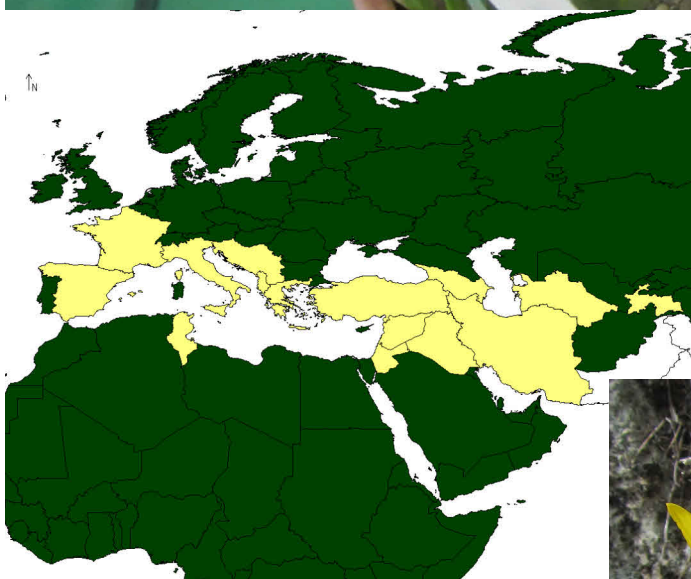
The leaf shape is a marked broad heart shape, with the basal lobes clearly diverging - not overlapping as they often do in *C. purpurascens*. They are often as wide as long, and have a finely toothed, horny margin which gives a beaded effect. They are dark green with a narrow and uneven silvery pattern on the upper surface. As in *C. purpurascens* the flowers appear to be relatively big for such a diminutive plants. Like *purpurascens* it like a leafy slightly shady position in the garden. One where it won't be disturbed. It is good in a trough in semi-shade.

This section of the report has cribbed terribly from the web site of the cyclamen society. If you like *Cyclamen* you are probably a member already ,if not you should join. There is a wealth of information about all *Cyclamen* in 'Cyclamen: In Art, Science and the Garden by Brian Mathew, Pandora Sellars and Christabel King' It is was on sale at SRGC shows priced £90 , so save up and buy a copy. It can only increase in value. Ask David Shaw our SRGC Publications Manager about it.



Above left and right
 Jean Wyllie's
 Cyclamen mirabile niveum & C. cilicium album
 Note that the tops of the petals on mirabile are feathered while those on cilicium are smooth.
 Left is Stan da Prato's winning 6 pan class
 Cyclamen persicum below left
 C. mirabile Tilebarn Nicholas with its pink leaves, below and the fabulous silver leaves on this
 C. x hildebrandii, which is the hybrid between africanum and hederifolium - below right





Once again Jean Wyllie dominates, this time with her large pan of *Sternbergia lutea*. Jean always gets her potful to flower in early October while mine grown just a mile away don't flower until well into November. Probably clones from different areas, since *S. lutea* is quite widespread in its distribution, from the Balearic Islands to Tajikistan.

The attached map comes from the cites web site which shows *S. lutea* distribution. Much further than I thought! Mind you the map includes the smaller *S. sicula* and *S. greuteriana* within *S. lutea*.

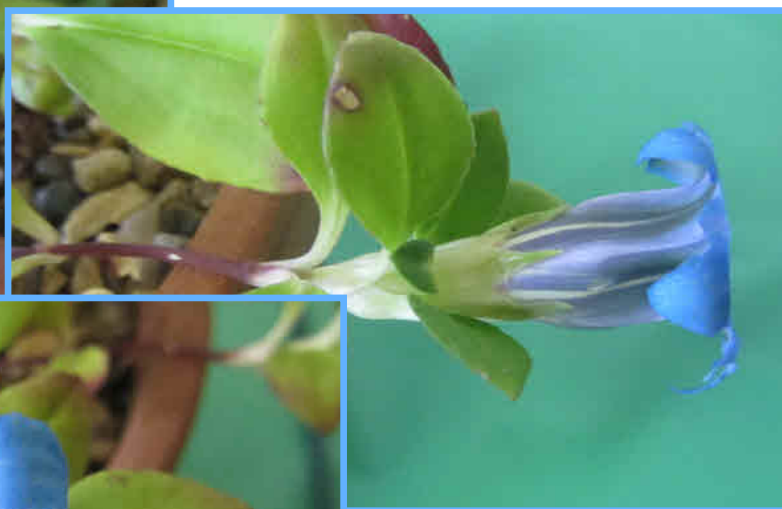


The other pictures were taken in Corfu at the end of October 2012. They show the habitat of the species. I particularly admire the clump which grew high up under the protection of the *Opuntia*.



GENTIANS

The 3 pan gentian class. The Peel Trophy for this was won by Roma's 3 plants [left] Roma's pan of *G. melandriifolia* [right] caused a stir of interest despite having only 2 flowers. The flowers themselves were startling electric blue in colour. It is a Chinese species from Yunnan.





**Best Foliage Plant
Saxifraga longifolia**



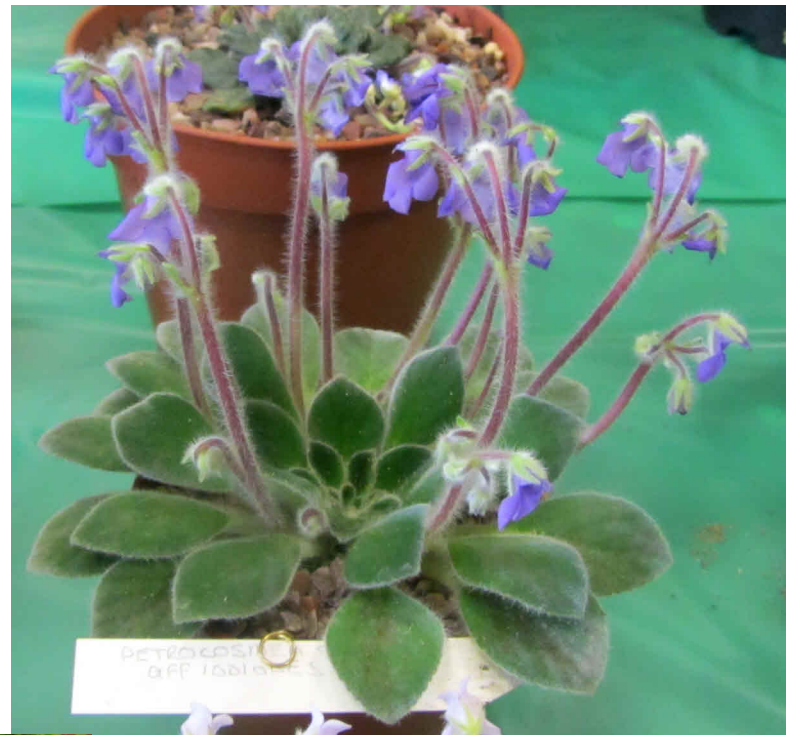


Glaucium corniculatum shown by Stan had, as he wrote on the label, flower, fruit and bud

A well flowered *Petrocosma forestii*, below and *Petrocosma iodoides* beneath it.

Stan da Prato's Pine was Best Conifer in the show

The ferns are *Cystopteris dickeana* and *Asplenium dareoides*



Eucomis vandermerwei octopusoides

Is endemic to western Mpumalanga in South Africa where it occurs at elevations of 2200–2500 m. It is a dwarf species with densely spotted leaves and best suited to growing in a container where the cryptic coloration on its foliage can be best displayed without being overrun by other plants. any prolonged exposure to more than -5C should be considered its limit. This is another reason why container culture is best for this plant and the bulbs can be lifted and stored dry until January. It prefers a sandy but acid soil with good drainage and plenty of



‘Lovely’ Plantago nivalis

with densely furry leaves is an attractive plantain endemic to the Spanish Sierra Nevada. Its Spanish name ‘Estrella de las Nieves’ translates as ‘Snow Star’ Its leaves hold water and the coating of soft white hairs (pubescence) protects the plant from cold temperatures, prevents evaporation and reflects the strong solar radiation. As the ‘snow star’ grows very close to the ground it is a protected from strong winds.

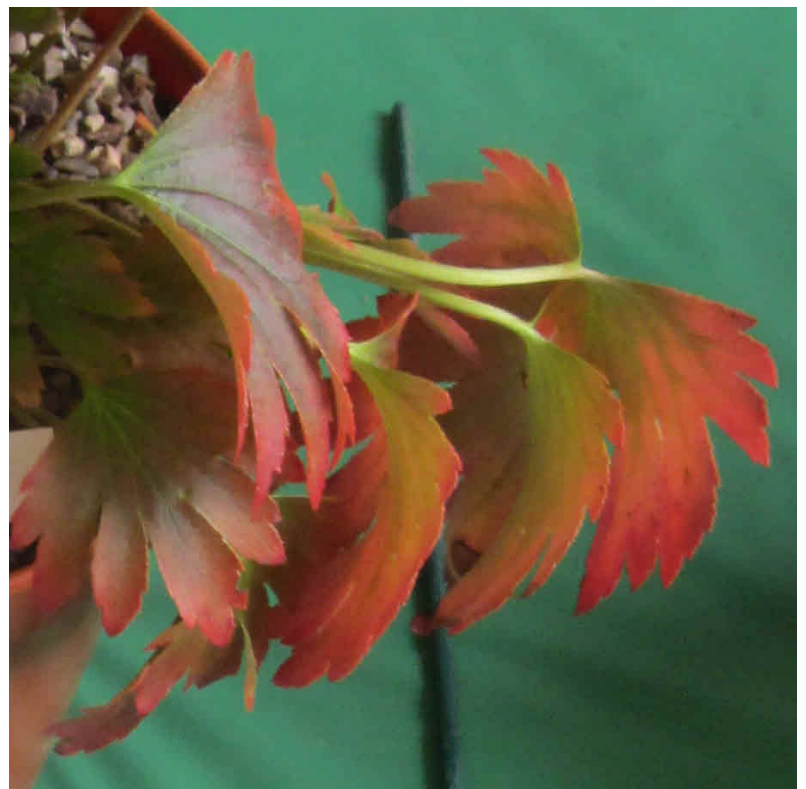
It has - together with Edelweiss - the legend of being the flower of eternal love as the leaves of the star do no dry out“People had the tradition to give it do their beloved ones as a token of their eternal love. Nowa-



‘Muckedenia rossii ‘Crimson Fans’

Is a member of the Saxifragaceae from rocky slopes and ravines in China, Manchuria and Korea. Missouri Botanic garden recommends it as groundcover! Flowers are held on rigid stout stems which bear panicles of numerous small creamy-white flowers.

Edrom nurseries recommend it for autumn colour. Shown by Christine Boulby





Christine Boulby 's
Saxifraga fortunei 'Fumiko'
was judged Best Plant in Section II



The Cairngorms from near Grantown on Spey and below, The Grant Arms Hotel is well worth staying at , at any time.

