



BULB LOG 10.....7th March 2012



View 2

In bulb log 4 I showed some views that I would return to through the year to show the changes – here is the first



update showing the earliest flowers. Due to the unusually warm weather the bulbs have sprung into flower extremely quickly and every day there are so many more to photograph that it is difficult to keep up. This is exactly what they have evolved to do – respond to the spring by producing flowers before the competition wakes up.



Erythronium caucasicum

Every year *Erythronium caucasicum* is the first of its genus to flower. It is very slow to increase vegetatively but after many years a third leaf has appeared on this plant indicating that a second

bud is growing from the bulb and an offset will form.

Whether it is a good species or just a form of *Erythronium dens canis* is debatable : it will be interesting to see what DNA evidence might suggest. I like to think it is a separate species but do admit that it is very difficult to separate it on morphology alone.





Galanthus, Eranthis, Iris and Narcissus

A nice group of some of the early flowering bulbs includes Iris 'Katherine Hodgkin' which is really quite a common bulb now, much more so than the sister seedling Iris 'Shelia Ann Germaney' which to my eye is the nicer looking of the two with cleaner colours.



Iris 'Shelia Ann Germaney'



Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'

The rich honey-like scent rising from Eranthis 'Guinea Gold' was sure to attract any pollinators in the area and there was a steady stream of bees on the flowers.



Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'



Eranthis 'Grunling'

Now the flowers of Eranthis 'Grunling' are fully out you can see the green stripe up some of the tepals. I do not know if this is caused by genetics or a disease but it is not to my liking.



On the other hand the pale colour of Eranthis schwefelglanz is a welcome variation to the more usual deep yellow.



Eranthis 'Schwefelglanz' and 'Pauline'

Still I can see no discernible difference between Eranthis 'Schwefelglanz' left and 'Pauline' on the right



Crocus 'Constellation'



Crocus 'Willem van Eeden'

I like to grow bulbs that we acquire in pots for a year so I can give them a health check before I release them into the garden. These two Crocus cultivars appear healthy and I will plant them out during the summer.



Crocus pestalozzae

Crocus pestalozzae is among the smaller of the species and could get lost or overlooked in a garden but it is a perfect wee gem for growing in a pot. Crocus x 'jessopiae' [below] is a hybrid of this species.



Crocus x 'Jessopae'

The similarities between *C. pestalozzae* and *Crocus x 'jessopiae'*, named by E.A.Bowles leads me to think is a hybrid involving this species



Narcissus cantabricus

A number of forms and hybrids of *Narcissus cantabricus* are flowering now and below I show a selection.



Narcissus cantabricus petunioides

In an attempt to get viable seed I have crossed the petuniode form with the one below I will then select for any petuniode seedlings



Narcissus cantabricus clusii

This is not a valid name but it was what Kath Dryden called it when she first gave it to me some twenty or more years ago.



Narcissus cantabricus hybrid

An open pollinated hybrid that has picked up some *N. romieuxii* or *N. bulbocodium* genes.



Narcissus x 'susannae'

This is my own from of Narcissus 'susannae' in this case a cross between Narcissus triandrus and Narcissus cantabricus petunioides : this to me is one of the most beautiful of all Narcissus.



Narcissus x 'susannae'



Plunge

While many of the white ones are over it is the turn of the yellow Narcissus.



Narcissus 'Mini Cycla'

Narcissus 'Mini Cycla' is an old hybrid that can lose its vigour – this is as good a pot that I have managed for a few years now.



Narcissus cyclamineus x 'Mini Cycla'

Two more of my own seedlings above I crossed N. 'Mini Cycla' back onto one of its parents N. cyclamineus – notice how the petals reflex more.



Tecophilaea seedling

Last for this week one of my almost white Tecophilaea seedlings after around four generations of selection.