



BULB LOG 23.....10th June 2009



Gothenburg Botanic Garden

I have just returned from nearly a week away visiting Gothenburg Botanic Garden where I had a wonderful time meeting friends and seeing the gardens at a different time of year to my many previous visits.



I was very struck with the **prairie style planting** above the bulb meadow, how I would love to have the space in our garden to have plantings like this.



Alliums and Eremurus

The main focal feature was the striking arrangement of the giant Alliums surrounding the Eremurus with swathes of Camassia linking the drifts of alliums.

I usually like to use pictures of our own garden and plants in the Bulb Log but as I have not had time to take any pictures since I returned yesterday and the fact that I am always so impressed by my visits to Gothenburg I thought I will make an exception and

share some of my highlights of my visit.



Me and Corydalis 'Craigton Blue'

As we walked up the pathway there is a magnificent planting with Cypripediums backed by a carpet of Corydalis 'Craigton Blue' – a hybrid between *C. omeiana* and *C. flexuosa*. I cannot tell you how much pleasure it gives me to see a plant that occurred in our garden thriving and spreading to so many gardens especially to Gothenburg which I consider to be the centre for the study of Corydalis.



Corydalis under glass

We are always very grateful to be allowed access to the ‘behind the scenes’ areas when we visit and I headed straight to the Corydalis area to see what they had in flower. The sticky yellow papers are to trap flying insects and indicate if there are any problem species such as aphids. They also help prevent these pests from becoming a problem because the flying aphids are attracted to the bright yellow and become stuck before they can get to the plants.



Corydalis calycosa

Among the many interesting species in flower my eye was captured by the bicoloured flowers of *Corydalis calycosa* held high above the leaves on tall stems.

Like all plants grown under glass they are probably taller than they would be in open garden conditions.



Corydalis mucronipetala

I found it difficult to capture in the camera the true colour, seen by my eyes, of this stunning blue Corydalis mucronipetala.

Related to *C. flexuosa* it has to have great garden potential with its compact growth with such superb blue flowers over almost glaucous green leaves.



Corydalis yunnanensis

Most of the *Corydalis* species that flower in June tend towards blue in colour so I was interested to see the yellow flowers of *Corydalis yunnanensis*. It is another relatively tall species where the flowers are held high above the leaves.

It would love to try all of these species in the garden to see how they would survive our climate as they can provide great displays in the beds when the main spring display of bulbs has gone dormant.





Corydalis caseana* ssp *brandegei



Corydalis caseana* ssp *brandegei

Among the many *Corydalis* that are growing happily out side at Gothenburg is this giant of the genus: *Corydalis caseana* ssp *brandegei*.

Growing happily by a pond the flower spikes reach up to my eye level where I can enjoy the pink flushed white flowers which have a contrasting purple inner petal. It comes from the mountains of the western United States where a number of sub species have been described.

This is definitely another plant to add to my list to try and get hold of for our garden where I think it would enjoy the semi woodland type conditions we have.



Corydalis pseudobarbispela

We also visited the fantastic garden of Peter Korn where I was again taken by these stunning blue flowers held over glaucous green and silver foliage that jumped out at you.



***Corydalis pseudobarbispela* flowers**

I was delighted to receive a plant of this great species from Peter and it is now planted in a prime spot in one of our woody humus rich beds. I hope it will feature in future logs as a plant growing as happily as it does in Peter's garden where it seeds around.



Corydalis elata



Corydalis elata flowers

I also saw the true *Corydalis elata* growing happily in Peter's garden making large clumps of pale green foliage with many purple blue flowers.

It has been decided that we have been growing the wrong plant under this name for so many years.

The plant we new as *C. elata* is now described as *C. omeiana*.

It was at this point in our trip that my camera, my compact pocket sized Olympus U 700, decided to pack up and despite my best efforts would not work again.

The extending lens would not stay out and I got a blue screen with the error message

5 f 08

5 e 02

When I checked online I discover that this is a common problem with these cameras when they are around 2 years old. I did have a similar problem with it when I was in New Zealand but a good bash on a table cleared the problem then: now it seems fatal. I will not spend lots to have it fixed, instead I will buy a new pocket sized compact.

Calochortus persistens

Back to some pictures I had taken earlier in my visit in the behind the scenes bulb house at Gothenburg where I found a few calochortus in flower like this Calochortus persistens



Calochortus gunnisonii

Whenever I see these fantastic Calochortus flowers I am encouraged to try them at home but alas I have to accept that I do not have room to grow everything that I would like to and have to accept to enjoy plants growing in other gardens.



Ledbouria cooperi

One of the South African bulbs I liked was this neat *Ledbouria cooperi* collected by Gerben Tjeerdsma. We also visited Gerban's garden where it is proving hardy growing in a well drained outside bed. Gerben very kindly gave me a bulb but I have put it in a pot where I will grow it of for a while then once it increases I will try some outside in our garden.



Rhodohypoxis deflexa f. alba

The tiny flowered *Rhodohypoxis deflexa* was another of Gerben's collections and I was able to buy both this white form and the pink type species at the Garden Shop.



Gothenburg behind the scenes

It was a most enjoyable trip and I wish to thank everyone at the Gothenburg Botanic Gardens for their kindness and hospitality also Peter Korn and Gerben Tjeerdsma for their hospitality and letting us roam around their gardens. If you have never visited Gothenburg then I can highly recommend that you do. I will leave you with the picture above showing the behind the scenes bulb house which is exactly the same stage of dormancy as my own bulb houses are.....now I am off to catch up in our garden.