



BULB LOG 41.....9th October 2013



Scoliopus bigelowii.

The Bulb Log this week while I am away in North America takes the form of a photo-essay on our experience of growing *Scoliopus bigelowii* and *S. hallii*.

Firstly *Scoliopus bigelowii*.



Scoliopus bigelowii



Thick thong like roots with growth buds at the top. Plants slowly form clumps which can be divided.



Plants form multiple flowers appearing any time from January until May depending on the clone and the weather.



Seed is set most years without any intervention from us.





To get the best germination we sow seed as it ripens in June. Stored seed will germinate but may take a year to do so.



Seed sown fresh germinates well early in the year. Stored seed may give a sporadic germination over a few years.



Seed raised flowers will display subtle variations in the markings.



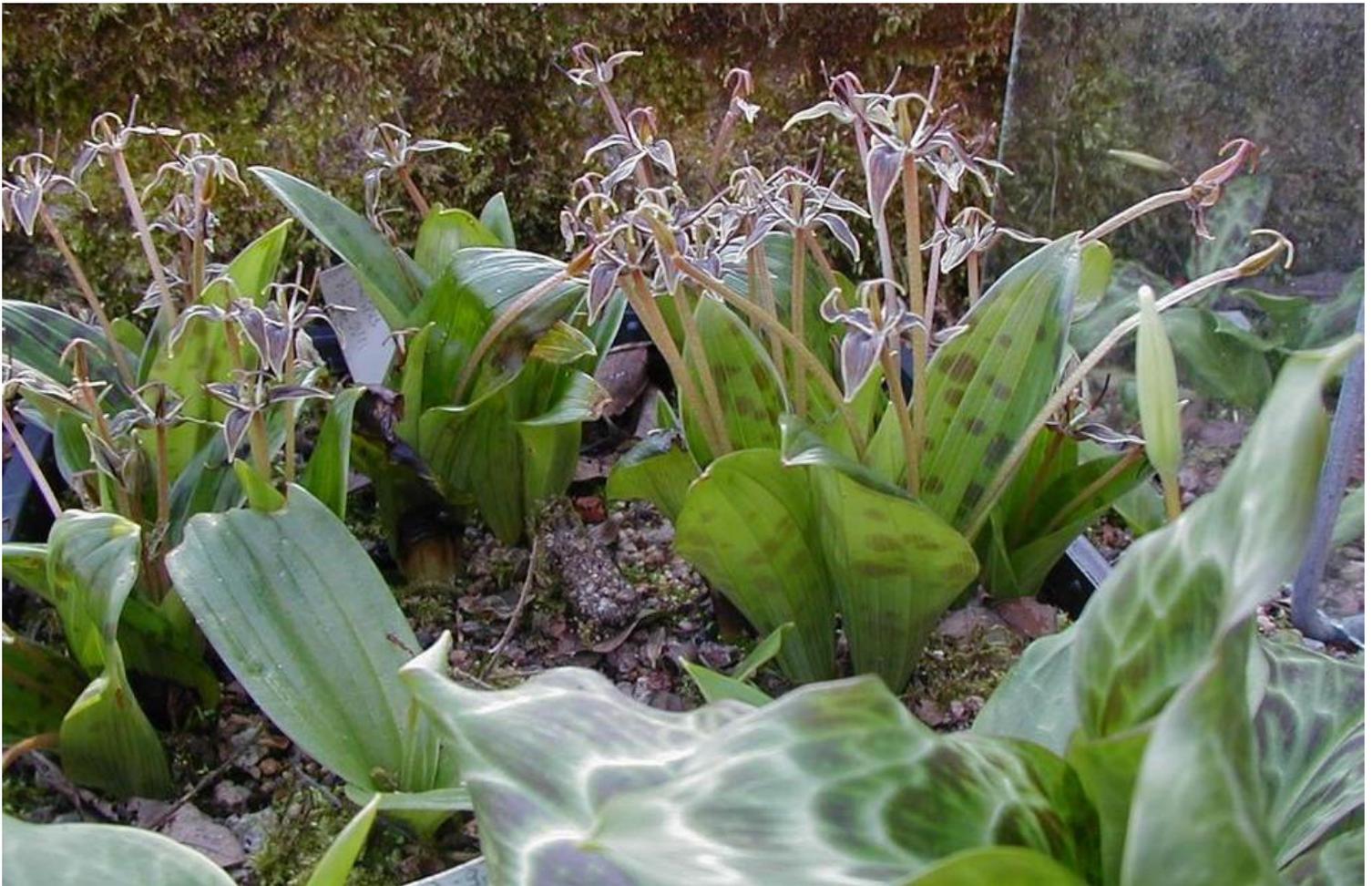
The decorative part of the flowers are bracts, the true petals are the thin upward pointing purple/brown parts.



The main pests are slugs and snails that eat all parts and seem especially attracted to ripe seed capsules.



Aphids are also attracted to the plants and again seem especially interested in the juicy fat seed capsules.



Scoliopus is unlikely to stop most people in their tracks as they walk around the garden but the subtle beauty will reward closer inspection. The flowers have a rather 'wet dog' scent.



Scoliopus halli

If you think that *Scoliopus bigelowii* is not decorative enough for your garden then its smaller relative *S. halli* is not for you. The flowers are smaller without very obvious stripes and the leaves are plain green.





Seed sown fresh germinates well.



First flowers come three years after germination.



Both species grow well in the open garden but you do have to choose a suitable spot that allows their subtle charms and diminutive size to be appreciated.



Scoliopus halli