



BULB LOG 47 .....18<sup>th</sup> November 2008



**Crocus michelsonii** shoots

A few logs back I showed these same shoots just appearing through the gravel – I had hoped that they would stop like that for the winter but they have continued to push up. *Crocus michelsonii* does flower very early in the year; normally anytime from late January through February but if growth continues these look like they could flower even sooner than that.



**Crocus biflorus melantherus**

Most *Crocus biflorus* wait until spring before they flower but *Crocus biflorus melantherus* graces us with an early preview of the beauty that this variable species will provide.



**Crocus biflorus melantherus** detail

Apart from flowering before the onset of winter *Crocus biflorus melantherus* is distinguished by the black anthers which turn golden when they split to reveal the pollen.





### **Crocus laevigatus**

I make no apologies for showing you yet another picture of *Crocus laevigatus*. I grow several pots of mixed seedlings which vary in both the markings and the time that they come into flower which in our bulb house can be any time from November right through to until February.



### **Crocus ochroleucus**

In bulb log 45 I showed *Crocus ochroleucus albus* which lacked the yellow throat of the typical form of *Crocus ochroleucus* shown above. The picture on the left is taken with natural light and there is a slight yellow cast from the sunshine. I used some fill in flash for the right hand one and captured the actual colour of the white floral segments and gave a much greater depth of field (where you can read the names on many of the labels behind the crocus). These pictures illustrate well that neither picture is better but both provide us with a different view – because the background of the left hand one, taken with natural light, is out of focus it makes the crocus flowers stand out better.





**Crocus niveus**

Because of the low light I have used flash for most of the crocus pictures in this week's bulb log. Most of our *Crocus niveus* flowered a few weeks ago but this one is always a bit later – it is also shorter and has a good yellow tube to the flower.



**Crocus niveus from above**

I have often put a question mark on this label to check out and verify the name of this plant as they also have a slightly different shape to the other forms we grow - here it is looking down into the flowers. I was very interested to see Arthur Nicholls lovely *Crocus* pictures in the forum from his recent trip to Greece which also show a wide variation in *Crocus niveus*. So often in cultivation we are used to a very narrow sample of the variation that can be found in a species in the wild so that when we are presented with some of those different

forms we are confused. If you have not seen the *Crocus* pages in the forum you should go immediately (well, after you have finished reading the bulb log!) and have a look at the wonderful pictures of *Crocus* both in the wild in Greece, Turkey et al and in cultivation.





**Colchicum cupanii**

It is good to show close up pictures like this to let you enjoy the fabulous details that make up the flower of Colchicum cupanii but unless you are familiar with the plant you have no idea what size these flowers actually are.

Colchicum cupanii scale

I placed my hand into this picture to give you the scale of this charming small Colchicum cupanii – it is such a delight.



**Pseudofumaria lutea**

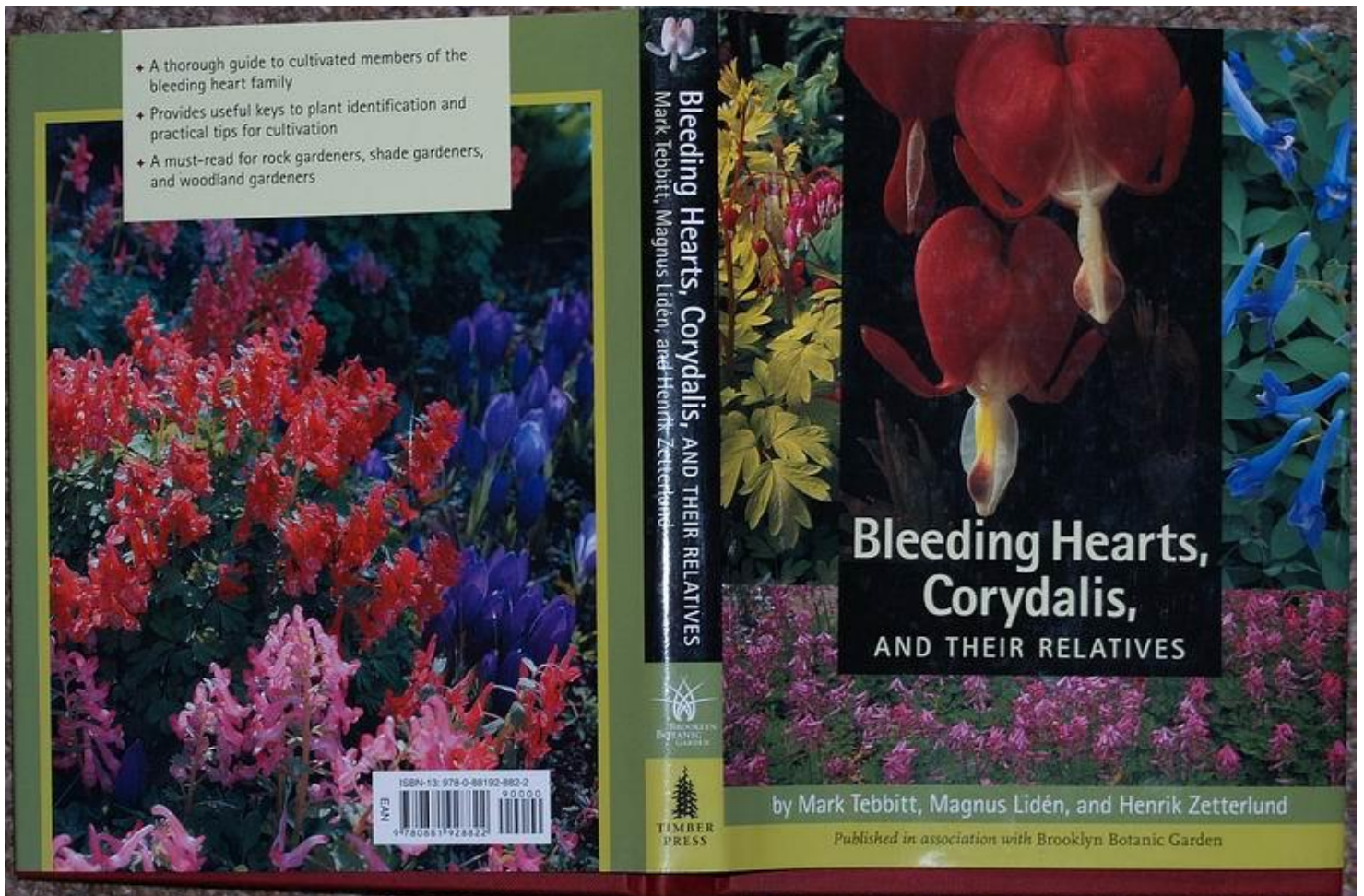
Pseudofumaria lutea is a great value plant because once you have it and allow it to seed you will never again be without it. It seeds around in our gravel paths and edges around the walls at the front of our house and all we need to do is to pull out the ones that put themselves where they are not allowed to be.





**Pseudofumaria alba**

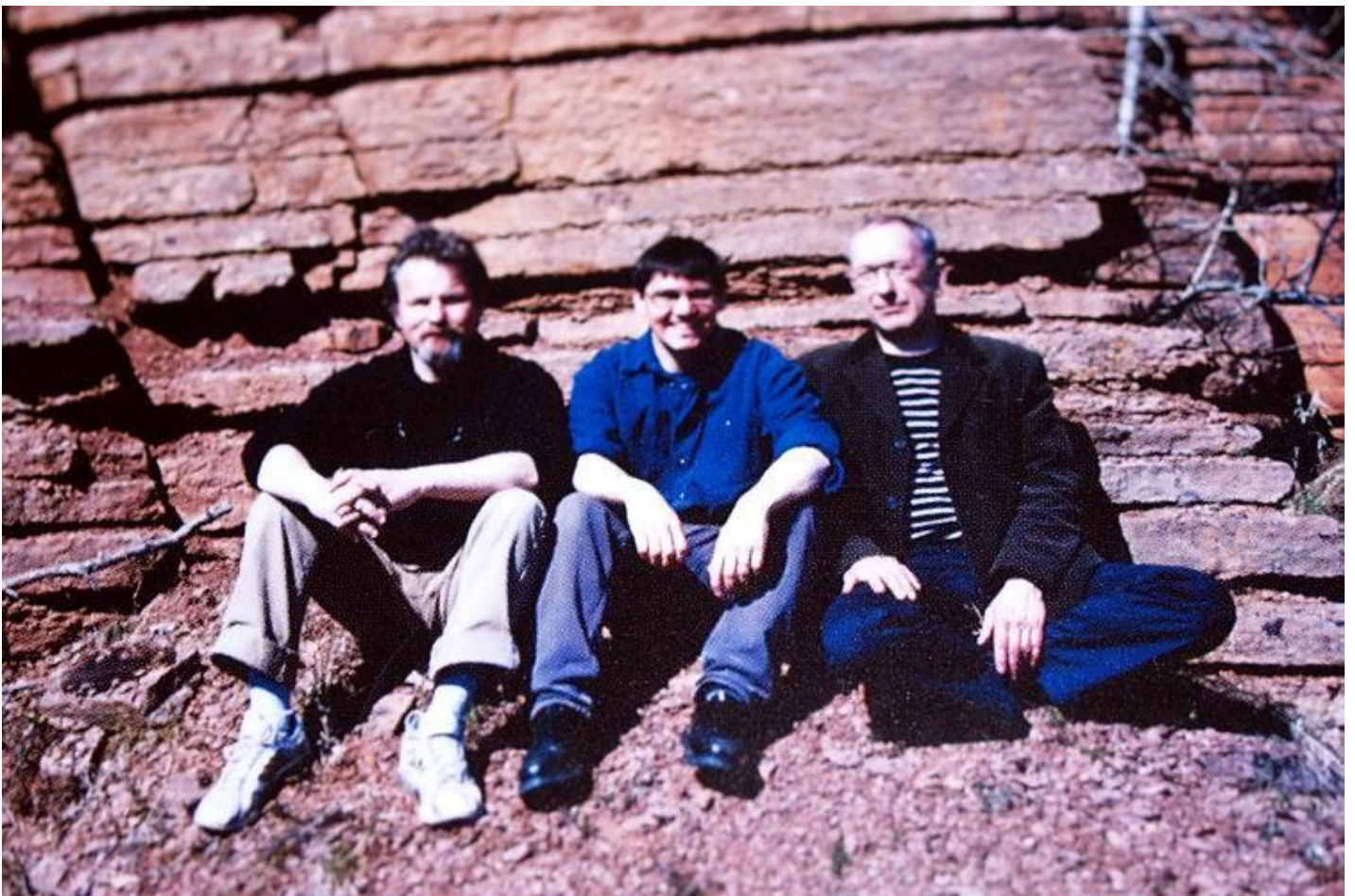
In the back garden *Pseudofumaria alba* does the same and both of these species can be in flower at almost any time of the year only being cut down when we get severe frosts. You may know and call these two species *Corydalis lutea* and *C. ochroleuca* but they have been reclassified and placed into this new genus and you can read all about them and their close relatives in a recently published book.



**Bleeding Hearts Book**

Published this year by Timber Press; *Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis and their Relatives* is the first book that I know of to cover this increasingly popular family of garden worthy plants.





**Zetterlund Tebbitt Lidén**

The authors will be familiar to many of you and here is their picture from the inside of the back cover.

### **The Authors**

Henrik Zetterlund of Göteborg is a regular and popular speaker who has been to Scotland many times; Magnus Lidén now of Uppsala, is booked to be one of the speakers at the SRGC Discussion Weekend in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and I see that Mark Tebbitt also has strong links to Scotland. These three authors bring together their considerable knowledge of these plants and present it to us in a very useful book that is aimed at the general and the serious gardener.



**MARK TEBBITT** (center) teaches at California University of Pennsylvania and has studied all the North American species in the bleeding heart family. Formerly a botanist at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, he earned a PhD in plant systematics from the University of Glasgow and is author of *Begonias* (2005). **MAGNUS LIDÉN** (right), a senior botanical researcher and scientific curator at the Uppsala University Botanic Gardens, and **HENRIK ZETTERLUND** (left), the horticultural curator at Gothenburg Botanic Garden, are co-authors of *Corydalis: A Gardener's Guide and a Monograph of the Tuberos Species* (1997). Magnus has a PhD in plant systematics from the University of Gothenburg and has described about 100 new species in the bleeding heart family. Henrik has participated in numerous collecting expeditions that resulted in the introduction of several *Corydalis* species.



# Contents

Preface 7  
 Acknowledgments 10  
 Introduction: Old Friends and New Acquaintances 11

1. Cultivation 17  
 Their Use as Garden Plants 17  
 Propagation 24  
 Creating Hybrids 27  
 Pests and Diseases 28

2. Natural History 32  
 The Bleeding Heart Family 32  
 Recent Taxonomic Changes 35  
 Morphology 37  
 Natural Distribution 40  
 Habits and Habitats 41  
 Pollination 42  
 Seed Dispersal 45  
 Bleeding Hearts and Butterflies 45

3. Identification Key to Genera 47

4. The Bleeding Hearts 50  
*Adlumia* (Allegheny Vine) 50  
*Dactylicapnos* (Climbing Dicentras) 52  
*Dicentra* (Dutchman's Breeches and Bleeding Hearts) 56  
*Ehrendorferia* (Eardrops) 71  
*Ichtyoselmis* (Large-flowered Dicentra) 73  
*Lamprocapnos* (Bleeding Heart) 75

5. *Corydalis* 79  
 The Tuberos *Corydalis* 81  
 Section *Corydalis* 82  
 Section *Leonticooides* 103  
 Other Tuberos Species 109  
 Non-tuberos Species with Yellow and Cream Flowers 115  
 Non-tuberos Species with Blue, Purple, Pink, and/or White Flowers 127

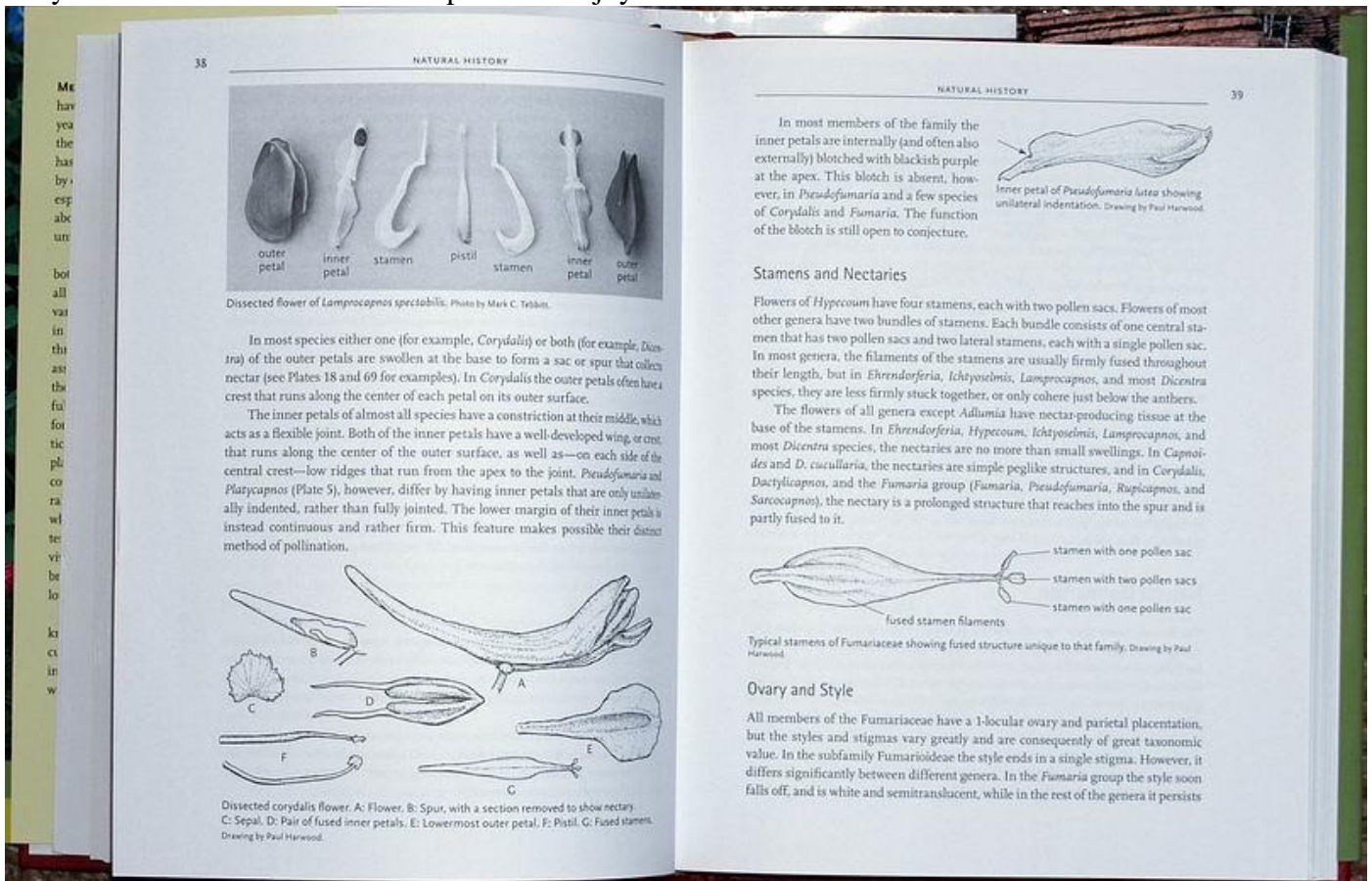
6. Additional Cultivated Genera 146  
*Capnoides* (Rock Harlequin) 146  
*Fumaria* (Fumitories) 148  
*Pseudofumaria* (Rock Fumeworts) 150  
*Rupicapnos* (Cliff-smokes) 152  
*Sarcocapnos* (Flesh-smokes) 154

Appendix A. Useful Addresses 157  
 Appendix B. Plants Recommended for Beginners 160  
 Appendix C. Royal Horticultural Society Awarded Plants 161  
 Appendix D. Measurement Conversion Tables 163  
 Glossary 164  
 Select Bibliography 168  
 Index of Plant Names 171

Color plates follow page 80

## Contents pages

The contents pages show how the book introduces us to the cultivation and natural history of these plants before going on to look at each genus in turn. The cultivation section deals with the different conditions, such as alpine house, trough, woodland garden, general mixed borders preferred by these plants, showing no matter where you garden you should find some suitable species to enjoy.



## Detailed pictures and drawings

The natural history section also deals with the morphology and illustrates just how fascinating and complex some of the flower structures are – it is well worth pulling one of the flowers apart some time. Distribution, habitats and pollination are all touched on in this section.





15. Sub-alpine scree habitat of *Dicentra pauciflora* and *D. uniflora* (lower left) and type location of *D. nevadensis* on decaying granite outcrops (center) at Sequoia National Park, California. Photo by Mark C. Hobbit.

16. *Dicentra canadensis*, squirrel corn, a spring ephemeral found locally in woods in eastern North America. Photo by Magnus Lidén.

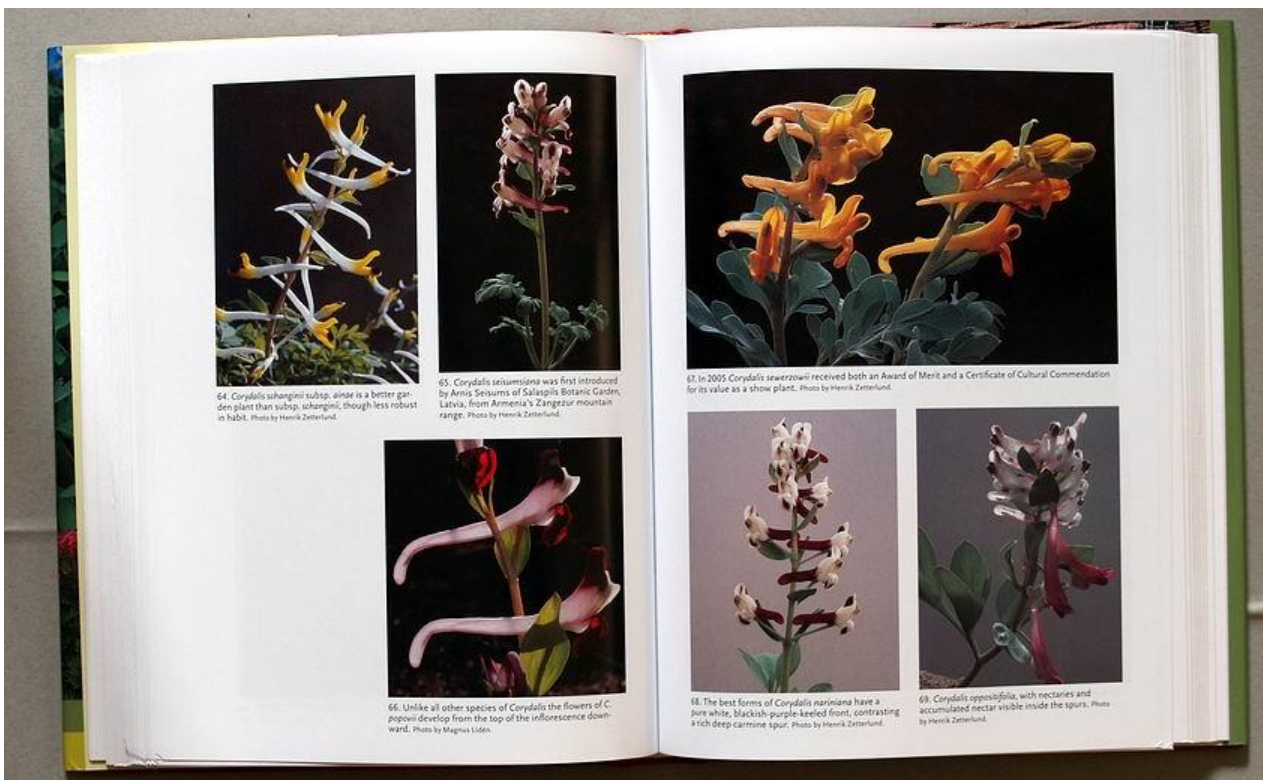
17. Comparison of the rootstocks of *Dicentra canadensis* (left) and *D. cucullaria* (right). Photo by Mark C. Hobbit.

18. *Dicentra cucullaria* is often called Dutchman's breeches on account of its pantaloan-like flowers. Photo by Magnus Lidén.

19. *Dicentra cucullaria* 'Pink Punk', a pink selection of the usually white-flowered species. Photo by Henrik Zetterlund.

### Dicentra

The bulk of the book deals with each genus in turn bringing us up to date with the latest names for these plants as there have been a number of major changes at both the genus and species level. We are not just told the new name but also the reason behind the change which helps when a name very familiar to gardeners is suddenly replaced by a new one. I really enjoyed reading the section on *Dicentra* as we have grown a number of them for many years without fully understanding exactly what species they were – now I know that some that confused me were hybrids involving *Dicentra eximia* and *D. formosa*. We have also grown some of the climbing dicentras from collected seeds such as the now named *Dactylicapnos macrocapnos*.



64. *Corydalis schanginii* subsp. *aliska* is a better garden plant than subsp. *schanginii*, though less robust in habit. Photo by Henrik Zetterlund.

65. *Corydalis seisussiana* was first introduced by Arnis Seisums of Salaspils Botanic Garden, Latvia, from Armenia's Zangezour mountain range. Photo by Henrik Zetterlund.

67. In 2005 *Corydalis sewerzowii* received both an Award of Merit and a Certificate of Cultural Commendation for its value as a show plant. Photo by Henrik Zetterlund.

66. Unlike all other species of *Corydalis* the flowers of *C. popovii* develop from the top of the inflorescence downward. Photo by Magnus Lidén.

68. The best forms of *Corydalis marimama* have a pure white, blackish-purple-keeled front, contrasting a rich-deep carmine spur. Photo by Henrik Zetterlund.

69. *Corydalis oppositifolia*, with nectaries and accumulated nectar visible inside the spur. Photo by Henrik Zetterlund.

### Well illustrated

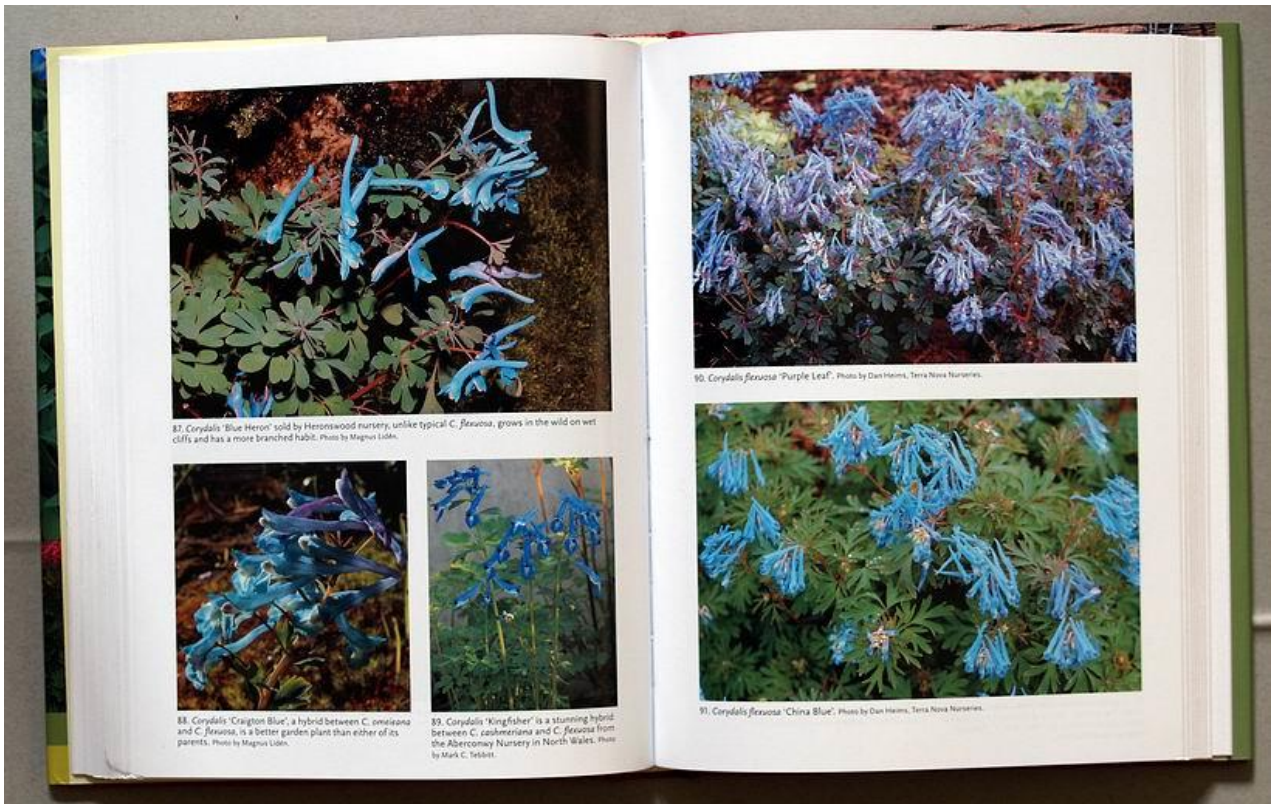
The book is well illustrated with 112 colour pictures which, much to my disappointment, are in a separate section towards the centre of the book. I know that it is a cost reducing measure that makes publishers group the pictures in this way but I would much prefer the colour pictures to be included in the text at the appropriate place so that I do not have to flick back and forward between the text and the picture it refers to.





### Bright coloured Corydalis

For me it is the Corydalis that are the stars of this family coming in all the colours of the rainbow and they must provide some of the most decorative plants to bring colour into the early spring gardens that exist. Again all the latest nomenclature is included here with detailed descriptions of the species and suggestions as to how to grow them. I did wonder if this book would be just duplicating the information I already have in my much read previous book 'Corydalis' by Lidén and Zetterlund but I find that it complements it, introducing me to the name changes and the wider family that includes the corydalis.



### Blue Corydalis

I have to own up to an interest as among the blue corydalis cultivars: the authors recommend is my own Corydalis 'Craigton Blue' a hybrid between what I knew as *C. elata* (but now know correctly as *C. omeina* thanks to this book) and *C. flexuosa*.

For me this book manages to bridge the gap and should appeal to both the general gardener looking for different and unusual plants to grow and the more serious plants people with a serious interest and I can recommend that you add it to your bookshelf.