



SRGC

--- Bulb Log Diary ---

Pictures and text © Ian Young



BULB LOG 01..... 7th January 2015

Dawn on a new day in our garden and here is the start of another year of the Bulb Log. Thanks to you all for your continued support and encouragement over all the years and I wish you all a healthy happy New Year full of growing successes.



As you can see we grow a lot of trees, of all sizes, and indeed they are critical to the garden both aesthetically and for the benefits they bring in the way of shade, drawing up excess moisture in our wet summers and the annual leaf fall which provides us with leaf mould a valuable soil conditioner.

Being in the garden so much tunes you into nature's seasonal activities and one I always notice at this time of year is how the blackbirds rip the lovely carpet of moss off the bonsai pots. As I walk the dogs I see that the birds rip the moss off walls, paths or anywhere it grows – I guess they are looking for food, it's surely too early for nesting material?



When you and/or your garden are young, you spend much time planting everything you can get hold of but as the garden gets old you spend more time cutting things back or taking them out. At one time the trees along our southern boundary wall served a purpose but now we have decided that not only are they not necessary but they are taking too much light away from the areas below so they are to be cut down.



They were first planted to obscure the fence which when their canopy was at that height they did very effectively but now they have grown too tall and we have plenty mature Rhododendrons that do that job.



As well as the having to be careful of the wall and the old fence I have the added problem of a number of telephone wires coming from the adjacent telegraph pole to negotiate, so the taking down has to be a careful process. The bigger logs will go to a recycling centre but I will shred all the smaller brush wood and use it as a mulch. I need to get this job done in the next month as the area where the brush wood is stacked is where we grow lots of Erythronium and Trillium and in about three months will look like it did last year in the picture below.



Erythroniums and Trilliums last year.

On the subject of Erythroniums I will soon start publishing the chapters of my book on Erythroniums in Cultivation in the Bulb Log – more on that next week.



Galanthus shoots are pushing through all over the garden and some are even showing flowers.



In a frame, and yes I have to admit that we do grow some Galanthus in the frames(!), one is in an advanced state just waiting for a warm enough day to burst open the flowers.



The main flower-power is in the bulb houses where Narcissus are opening by the day.



Narcissus 'Camoro'



Among the good features of **Narcissus 'Camoro'** is its strong stem.



A pale form of **Narcissus romieuxii**.



One of the many seedlings that sowed itself into a Crocus pot is very attractive and could possibly be a cross between **Narcissus romieuxii** and **Narcissus bulbocodium**.



This is a form of **Narcissus bulbocodium** showing the more funnel shape of the corona.



The same plant as above, this time looking into the corona.



Here another of the self-sown seedlings is flowering in a Fritillaria pot.



Some more examples of this hybrid complex involving *Narcissus romieuxii*, *cantabricus*, *albicans* and *bulbocodium*.

The one above has a very rolled back edge to the corona while the one on the left has a green tinge which will most likely fade as the flower expands to its full size



A lot of these seedlings are going to end up being planted directly in the sand plunge in the bulb house.

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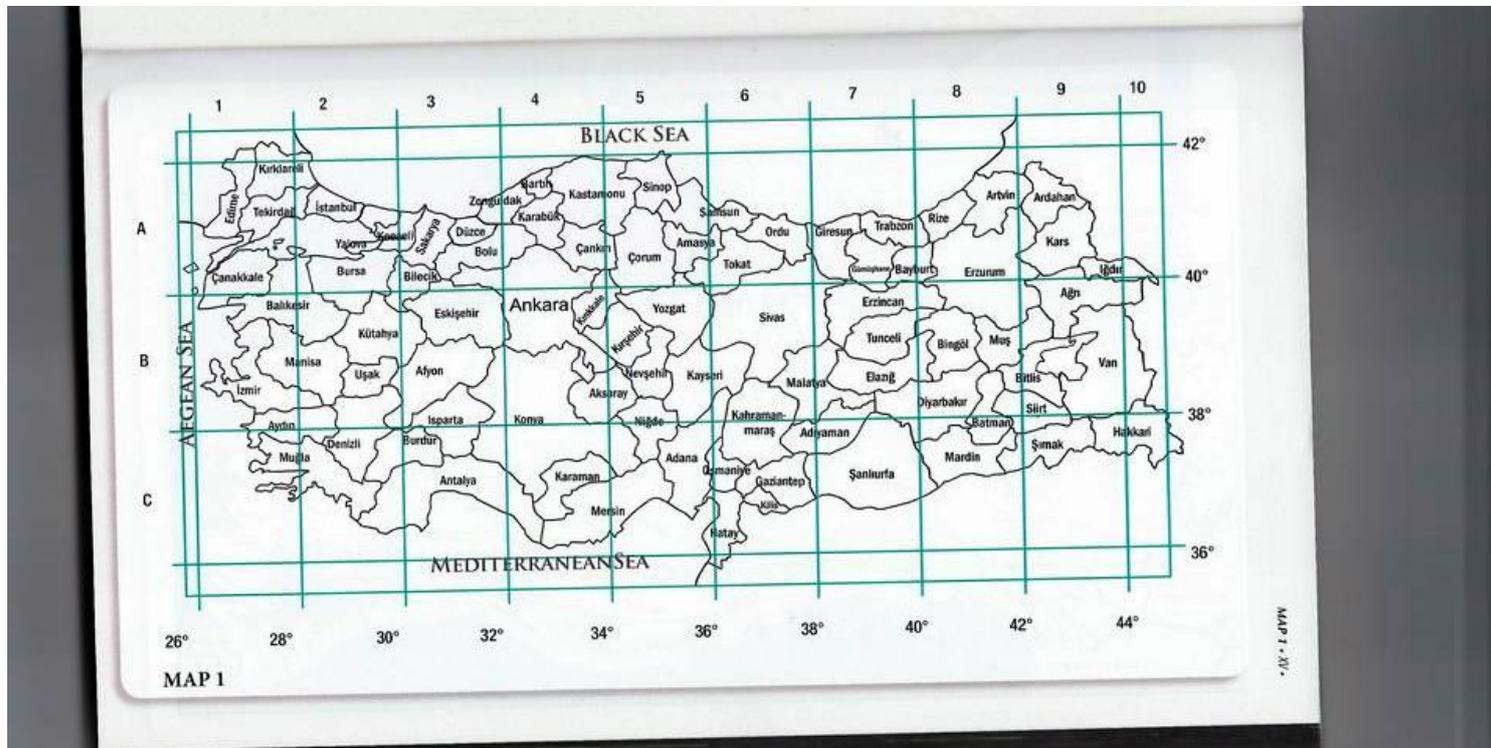


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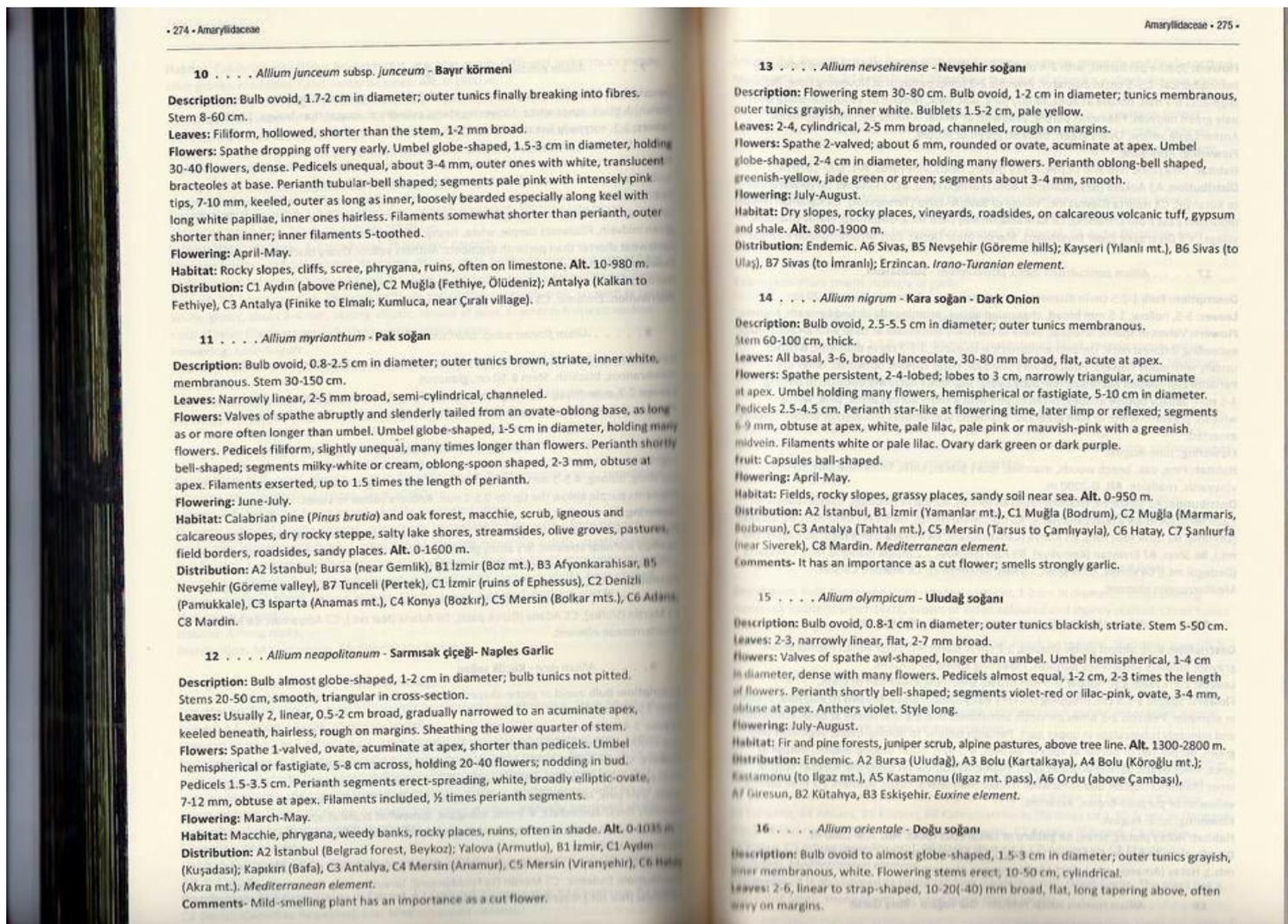
I have just received a copy of a very interesting book that I would like to share with you- it is a Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Turkey by Yasemin Konuralp, ISBN 978-605-89610-6-7: this the second edition which covers the bulbous species along with some others. It is a paperback of 484 pages measuring 23.5 cm x 14cm and so has a reasonable but not excessive weight to take into the field.



Towards the front is a very useful visual key to help anyone unfamiliar with the plant families to locate the relevant section of the book. Also towards the front is a map, shown below, showing Turkey divided into its regions.



The map is also divided by a grid which has Latitude and Longitude as well as an alpha numerical key which is most helpful because the distribution of the plants with intensely keyed in the description section of the book so you can quickly tell if the plant you are trying to identify is known to grow in that locality.



The text pages are at the back of the book and include a detailed description of all the plants which can be used in conjunction with the pictures to confirm the identity.



208 - *Crocus antalyensis* subsp. *striatus* • Qizik çiğdem



210 - *Crocus baytopiorum* • Hanım çiğdemi



Crocus

I am sure the most useful part of the book for most readers will be the 900 photographs, which along with the detailed description and the distribution key should make identification of most plants you are likely to encounter possible. The pictures are printed on a glossy paper making it very difficult for me to illustrate them without some shine so these illustrations are just to give you a taste of the content.



171 - *Colchicum decalcsnej* • Göçkovan



174 - *Colchicum inundatum* • İnce sürincan



172 - *Colchicum dolichenantherum* • Helay mahrutu



Colchicum



Sim Yuzbasoğlu

30 - *Galantus gracilis* • İnce kardelen



32 - *Galanthus plicatus* subsp. *plicatus* • Boğaz kardeleni



Galanthus



496 - *Cyclamen cilicium* • Seytankabalığı



498 - *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *anatolicum* • Domuztopalağı



499 - *Cyclamen hederifolium* • Kandilökü

Cyclamen



411 - *Limodorum abortivum* var. *abortivum* • Saçuzatan

413- *Neotinea maculata* • Benli çamsalebi



Plenty of Orchids of course.



363 - *Tulipa saxatilis* • Keraye lalesi



365 - *Tulipa sylvestris* var. *australis* • Yavruağzı



Aban Ertilbey



Tulips



13 - *Allium nevehirensis* • Nevşehir soğanı



16 - *Allium orientale* • Doğu soğanı



Allium



322 - *Fritillaria crassifolia* subsp. *crassifolia* • Boynubükük



324 - *Fritillaria forbesii* • Ince lale



Fritillaria

The Author has long experience of leading trips into the field and for many years has been observing and photographing the plants which she now shares with us in this volume.

Obviously some compromises have had to be made in the printing but for the most part the pictures come out well with an accurate colour which will undoubtedly prove most useful when trying to identify the plants you are seeing.

Even though this is described as a field guide I think it will also be most useful and interesting for anyone interested in growing bulbs, I will find it an aid to checking the names of plants that I have raised from seed, or just to enjoy the beauty of such a botanically rich country.

You can purchase the book using PayPal at the author's web site [Wild flowers of Turkey](#) where you can also find information on the guided tours that she leads.



One more picture of a Narcissus to end this week.....