

International Rock Gardener

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We begin this issue with an article from Gerrit Eijkelenboom on his favourite genus - orchids, this time from the island of Samos. The photos shown with this are from Gerrit's trip in Spring 2023. Samos is one of the Greek islands in the eastern part of the Aegean Sea. Sadly, this island is another in the area that has suffered severe fires in recent times. At the end of July, in its

daily fire risk prediction map, the Civil Protection ministry's General Secretariat said "the areas most at risk were Attica; Central Greece (Viotia, Evia); the Peloponnese (Argolida, Corinthia); South Aegean (Kos, Kalymnos, Rhodes, Karpathos), North



Aegean (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Ikaria) and Crete (Iraklio, Lasithi)." The devastation in these areas is widespread, as has been the case around many countries this summer.

Smoke from fires on Samos, July 2023 – photo from Greek City Times.

Also in this issue are descriptions of new galanthus hybrids developed by Anne Wright in Yorkshire. Anne enjoys raising new galanthus, narcissus and hepatica in her small garden, and started a mail-order only nursery, initially to sell surplus bulbs from her hobby, though she now also propagates plants especially for the nursery list. Anne is an expert propagator by means of bulb "chipping" and has generously shared her method for this [in a previous IRG](#) in order to encourage others to try this technique.



A compilation photograph of Anne's Dryad Myths and Legends series of *Galanthus*.

Cover image IRG 163 : *Orchis morio* hypochrome by Gerrit Eijkelenboom.

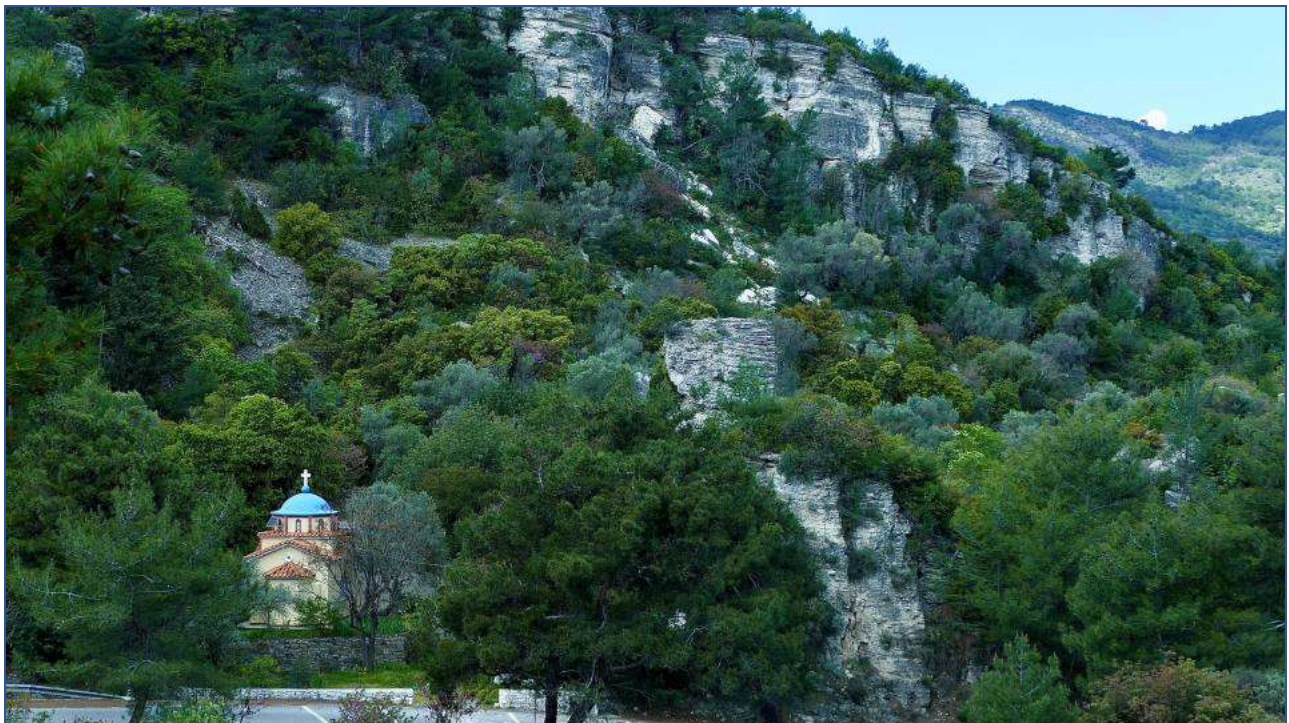
Erratum IRG 162 cover image: correct spelling is *Crocus bydzowskyanus* R2CV-047.

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--- Spring Travels to the Dodecanese ---

Orchids of Samos by Gerrit Eijkelenboom

Samos is one of the Greek islands in the eastern part of the Aegean Sea, the Dodecanese. Other well-known islands are Rhodes, Kos, Chios and Lesbos. The Mediterranean climate provides us, visitors in spring, a pleasant stay. We booked a package journey from April 20 to April 27 2023 at Elizawashere, a tour operator providing flight, rental car and accommodation. We took the first flight of the season, directly from Amsterdam to Samos on April 20. It was just in time, most of the orchids were at their peak. Our accommodation, on a small resort with only 13 individual cottages was situated near the small village of Koumeika, in the middle and the south of the island. Visitors should know however that the island is only 40km from east to west and 19km from south to north, It takes a long time driving through the mountains. The average speed is limited to 30km/hour. So, when you choose your accommodation do not go to the easternmost point but choose the middle part of Samos. Samos is a green island with an abundant vegetation and high mountains. Agriculture is the most important means of subsistence. The beautiful old olive trees are everywhere. The muscat grape provides the famous Samos muscat wine. Tourism is limited, so you may believe sometimes that you are the only tourist, when driving through the arcadian landscapes searching for flowers, orchids, maybe snakes or whatever. (We indeed encountered some guys, looking for snakes.)



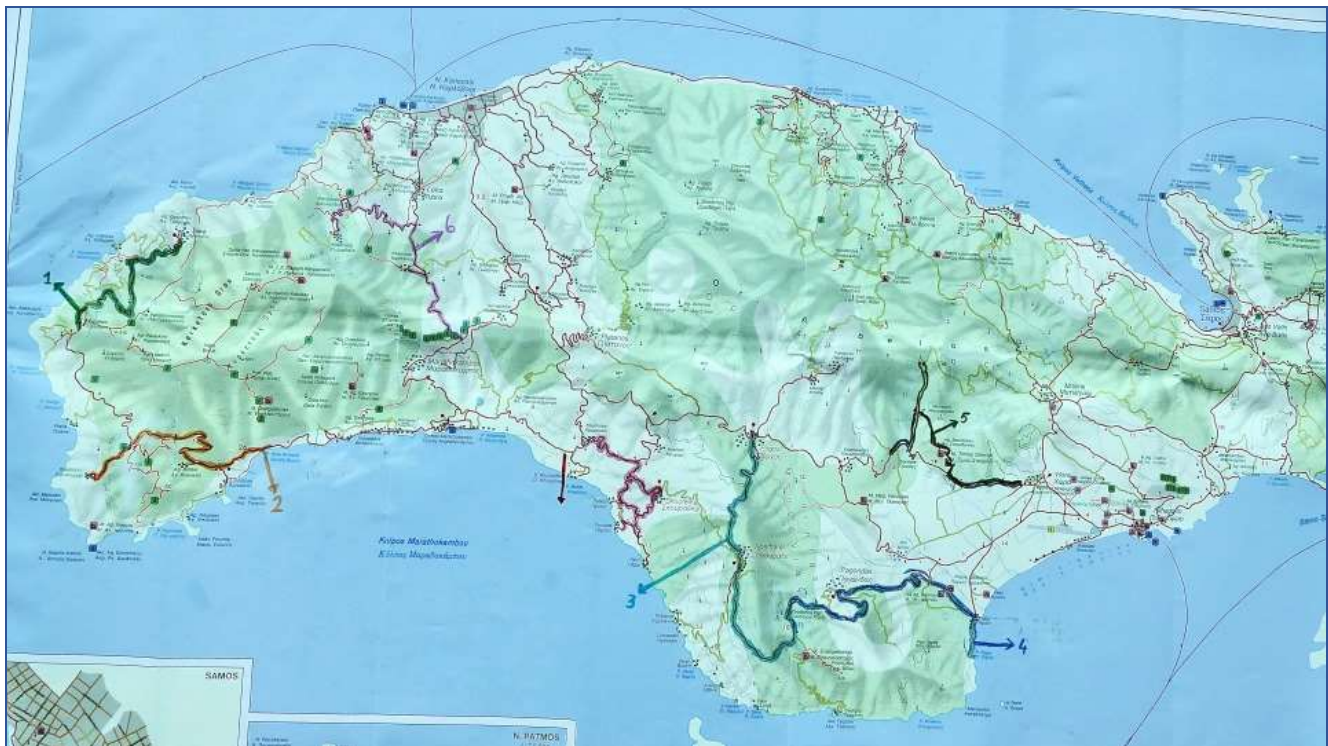
Greek church in landscape

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Mountains, sea and olive trees of Samos

On the photo you see the eastern part of Samos, the plain with airport and olive trees on the foreground, the sound between Europe and Asia, Greece and Turkey, at this point, only a mile wide, it is where numerous fugitives make the risky crossing.



Map of Samos

On the map of Samos you will see the routes we have taken and the orchid findspots. I do not mention the GPS coordinates here. If you are interested, [send me an email](#) for the GPS.

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I will start with the *fucifloroid* [i.e. (sub-)entire, quadrangular to trapezoidal] ophrys. One of the most impressive ophrys you may find is ***Ophrys samia***. It bears the name of the island, so it is endemic. The shape of the lip is trapezoid, with a complete submarginal band of dense hairs. The colour of the lip is orange towards the edges. There is only a small speculum, and the protuberances (swellings) are like horns, but tiny. (route 1 dark green.)



Two examples of *Ophrys samia*



The most beautiful orchid on Samos – in my eyes - ***Ophrys samiotissa*** bears the name of the island too. It is a quite variable species, so not so easy to recognise, when you see them for the first time. The whole perianth (sepals and petals) is rose-purplish. It is a medium sized flower, with a dark brown colour and a submarginal band of hairs. The macula is rather complex. (route 5, along the roadside, near the military base. Do not photograph beyond the shield.)



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Two more examples of *Ophrys samiotissa*.



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Ophrys ethemeae has medium sized flowers. The lip is quadrangular without side lobes and there are small protuberances. Around the lip there is a band of hairs. The colour of the lip is dark brown. The bluish speculum is surrounded by thick yellow lines, sometimes with an ocellus. A wonderful orchid.



Ophrys ethemeae.



Ophrys tili is a species originally described from the island of Tilos, south of Samos. It is recognized by the wide fucifloroid lip, mostly broader than high. the speculum occupies two-third of the middle lobe and bears a large greyish-blue central area, surrounded by thick yellow lines.

Ophrys tili



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Ophrys tili



Ophrys oreas or hybrid

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This remarkable find in a vast meadow makes me think of ***Ophrys oreas***, a newly discovered endemic species from Rhodes, The two plants share many features, such as the sepals, the shape of the lip and the speculum. Perhaps they are hybrids, but from which parents?

The next seven orchids species are of the *scolopaxoid* type. I was very surprised to find and determine so many of them. Seven species, looking more or less like each other. That's the result of the extreme splitting.

The most common of them is ***Ophrys oestrifera***. This species has a mid-size flower. The protuberances are long and mostly outward spreading.

Ophrys oestrifera



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Ophrys umbilicata is not difficult to recognize, because of the compact growth, with all flowers close to each other and at the same time. The white perianth, with the dorsal sepal bending over the column makes it easy. (route 5 green, north of Mavratzei.)



Ophrys umbilicata



Ophrys minutula is a very small species. The length of the lip is 6.5-9mm. The sepals which turn strongly turn backwards are the main characteristic. But note also the green-orange or red-orange basal field, which appears quite wide.

Ophrys minutula

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We discovered an orchid which should not be there, *Ophrys minuscula*, at the end of route 2 (marked orange), just before the little village of Paleochori in a huge meadow, with many amazing species. According to the orchid guide, it grows on Greek mainland, not on the islands of the Dodecanese. The flowers are extraordinarily small, only 6 mm, easy to overlook. But the rather high plants, above the long grass in the meadow are eye-catching. The sepals are turned strongly backwards.



Above and below: *Ophrys minuscula*



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Another tiny orchid is ***Ophrys cornutula***. This species is distinguished by the short length of the lip. But it is almost similar to ***Ophrys oestrifera*** though the lip is somewhat smaller.

Ophrys cornutula

Another scolopaxoid species is ***Ophrys dodekanensis***, again a tiny species with a lip of only 6-9 mm. It resembles the other small ophrys, but there are differences indeed. The perianth is white and the base of the stigmatic cavity is orange brown furthermore, this field looks large. The flowering time is march, but on Samos plants are in flower in April, as we have seen. Some call this a late-flowering species ***Ophrys heterochila***, which is a valid name. (route 3, south of Spatharei).



Ophrys dodekanensis

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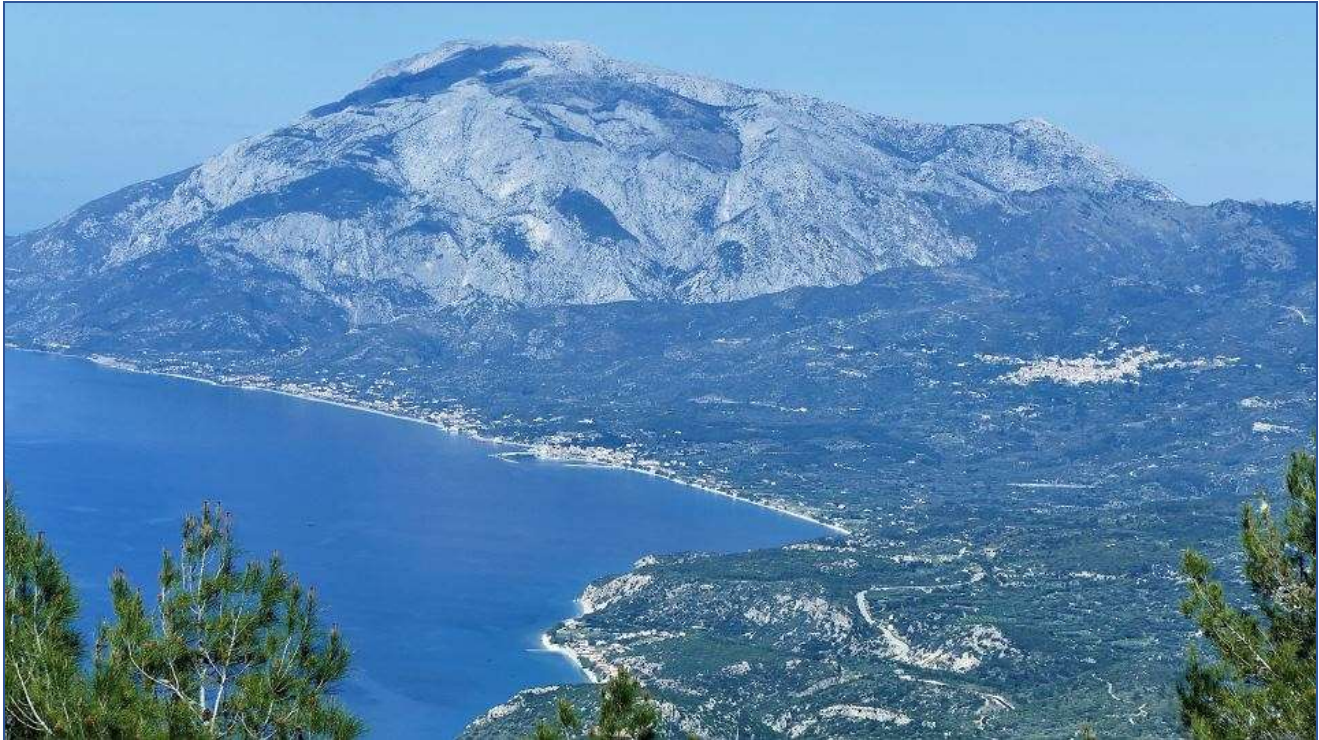
Another scolopax-like orchid is ***Ophrys ceto***. It is characterised from the other taxa by the thin and elongated lip, small to medium-sized and the short lateral lobes, (horns) The sepals are pink to dark lilac, sometimes white. The petals are darker than the sepals.



Above and below: *Ophrys ceto*



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Samos

This picture shows the highest peak on Samos, Mount Kerkis, 1433m. On the foreground, only visible for me, the houses of our holiday park, Mandelada Village. The shore, with many holiday houses, some hotels and shops and the beaches are clearly visible.



Mandelada Village

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And now I will show you the more common and easy to recognize orchids. For some readers of this article, it's perhaps a relief!

Orchis italica. This species is important for many orchid-lovers. They are eye-catching and an indication that you may find more. At the time we visited Samos many of them were already past, an indication that we were late in the season. ***Anacamptis pyramidalis*** is a late flowering species. We saw the first individuals flowering.



Left: *Orchis italica*

Below: *Anacamptis pyramidalis*



The next species is the spectacular horseshoe orchid, ***Ophrys ferrum-equinum***.

The combination of the dark, almost black lip and the purple sepals and petals is outstanding. The shiny-blue pattern, often in the shape of a horseshoe on the lower part of the lip is



attractive. This pattern is not always a horseshoe, but often two straight lines. (We found the species along the roadside of route 3, marked light green.)

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Several varieties have been described, *Ophrys ferrum-equinum* f. **labiosa** with a long lip. The edges on the lower part of the lip are spreading and then reflexed. Another form is *Ophrys ferrum-equinum* f. **subtriloba**. The lip has 2 rounded lobes.



Ophrys ferrum-equinum forma *labiosa*



Ophrys ferrum-equinum forma *subtriloba*

Not a form, but a subspecies is *Ophrys ferrum-equinum* subsp. **gottfriediana** (after Gottfried Keller, Swiss botanist) or *Ophrys gottfriediana*. The lip appears heart-shaped because the sides of the lip are turned under.

Ophrys ferrum-equinum subsp. *gottfriediana*



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*Ophrys
reinholdii*



Another blackish orchid is ***Ophrys reinholdii***. It is an impressive orchid, easily recognisable.

It is the thick white line, horizontal over the lip that makes it so easy. The colourful perianth is often purple or reddish. We have found many of them along the roadside from Maratokambos to Kastania. (route 6, purple on the map.)

Ophrys reinholdii

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When you are looking at the photo of *Ophrys regis-ferdinandii*, you may wonder, whether this is an orchid or not, unless you have seen it before. This is a species looking very insect-like, maybe in order to attract male insects. It is easy to determine, but hard to find. It is so tiny and the blue speculum is shining in the sun, that you may overlook it easily. Once found, you will find more, now you know how and where to look. It is a member of the *Ophrys speculum* group. (route 3, marked green, on the highest point of the road, at the north side.)



Ophrys regis-ferdinandii

Ophrys mammosa is a blackish orchid too. The lateral sepals of this species are mostly divided in green and pink. The protuberances are robust, hence its name. The dark and shiny colouration of the pseudo-eyes is remarkable. We found it only once on Samos, strange, because it is widespread, on the route 6, purple coloured.



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Ophrys herae resembles *Ophrys mammosa*. *Ophrys herae* has an orange-olive green coloured basal field, whereas it is red on *Ophrys mammosa*. (route 6 marked purple on the map.)



Ophrys apifera is also present on the island. An isolated species, mostly self-pollinating. The pollinia, whose long caudicles wither only a few hours after the flowers open, drop from the loculi and fall onto the stigma. This autogamy leads to the appearance of hypochromatic or aberrant plants. (route 7, red near Skoureika.)

Ophrys apifera

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Route 4 on the map: Driving west, some hundred metres before Pagondas, there is a stony path at your right, heading onto a vast phrygana landscape. Many ***Orchis morio* subsp. caucasica** welcome you. Phrygana is the typical Greek habitat, with short grass, many stones and boulders, with many thorny shrubs. That's where orchids feel at home. This orchid forms populations with a high number of individuals. The typical plants of this taxon have pink to dark violet flowers. A robust spur is curved upwards. The most striking feature are the green veins on the petals. Green in the ears. White (hypochrome) flowers are not rare.



Orchis morio



Orchis morio hypochrome

In this phrygana, we discovered individuals with a distinguished lip. We presume, they are hybrids between ***Anacamptis morio*** and ***Anacamptis papilionacea* subsp. aegaea**. With the name ***Anacamptis x gennarii***

Anacamptis x gennarii



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In the same phrygana ***Orchis anatolica*** grew, also in large groups. Leaves are spotted, the stem is red. The flowers are pink to purple, with in the centre numerous dark red spots. The spur is straight.

Orchis anatolica

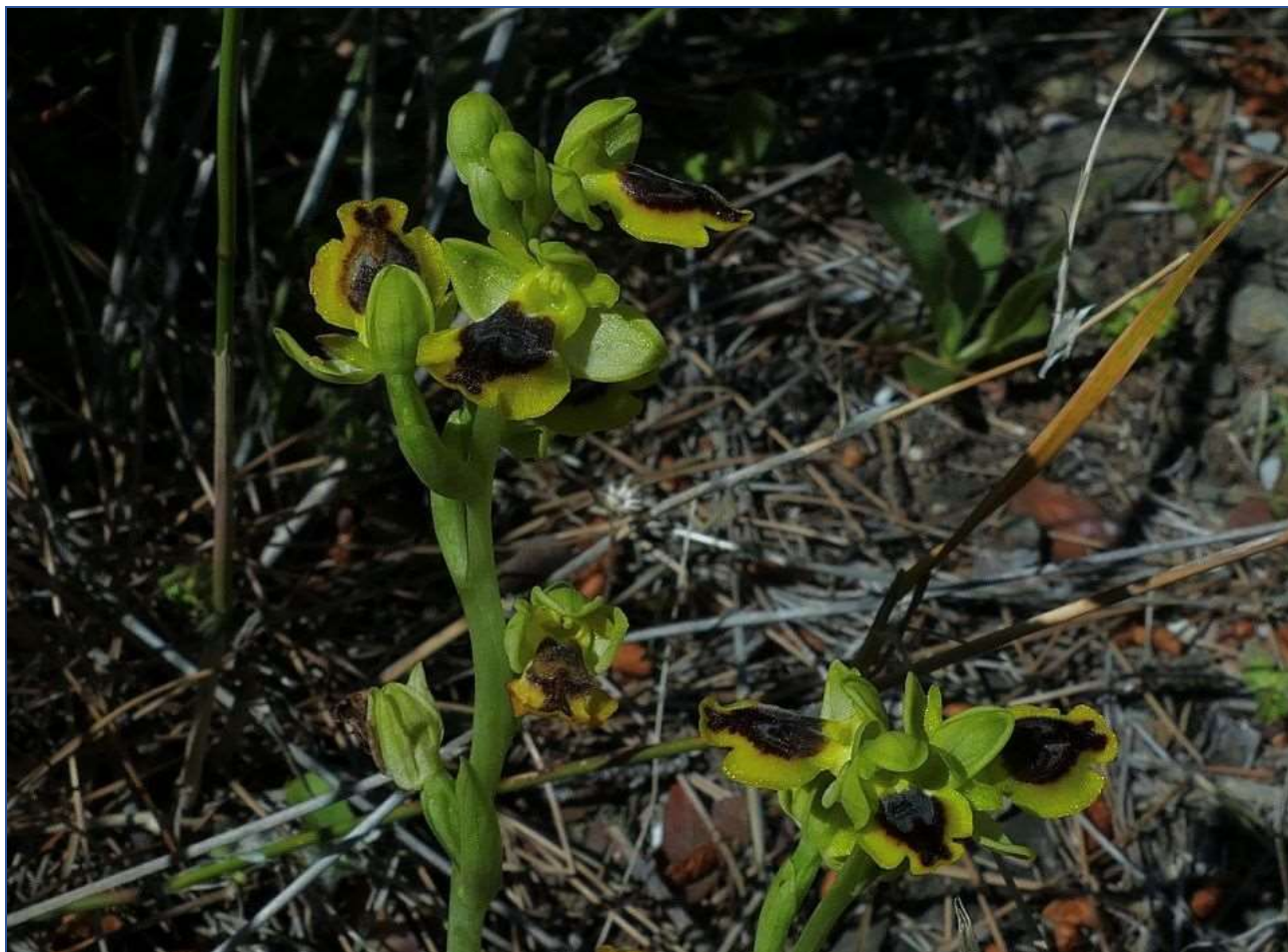


Orchis anthropophorum is an old acquaintance. It appears on so many places in Western Europe and in Greece. On Samos it is rather rare.

Orchis anthropophorum

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Ophrys sicula is a typical species for dry phrygana. The lip is horizontal or pointing upwards. On Samos where we saw masses of them, it is a very short plant.



Ophrys sicula



One of the many churches of Samos – with ever-present olive tree.

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Next orchids belonging to the *fusca lutea* complex.

This is *Ophrys pelinaea*. It has a large flower. The speculum bears a broad white line in the form of the Greek letter omega. But this species is not a *Ophrys omegaifera*. (route 2 orange along the shore.)



Ophrys sitiaca belongs to the *Ophrys omegaifera* group. The most important feature, the members of this group share, is the absence of a central groove, but we see on *Ophrys sitiaca* a slight groove at the entrance of the stigmatic cavity, due to its hybrid origin. It is an early flowering species, nevertheless we were lucky to find a single individual plant on April 21st. The lateral lobes are strongly turned down and under the median lobe. The speculum is often marbled, there is an omega at the tip of the speculum. The end of the lip is

strongly turned down like a boxing glove. (Route 2, orange along the shore.)

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It is always a pleasant surprise, meeting an *Ophrys iricolor*. It is such a marvellous flower. We never try to find her, but suddenly she is there. The lip is horizontal, with a distinct central plateau. The speculum is a bright electric blue colour. The underside of the lip is reddish, look at it to be sure it is *Ophrys iricolor*.



Ophrys iricolor



Ophrys fragrans is a widespread species, on dry calcareous phrygana. (The end of route 4, blue, just before Pappa's Beach.)

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Under the same conditions *Orchis sancta* lives, a rare species. Many of us, orchid-lovers, have never seen this marvellous orchid, because of its late flowering time. It is easy to determine (The end of route 4, blue, just before Pappa's Beach.)



Orchis sancta

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The following two items are woodland species. ***Neotinea maculata*** and ***Limodorum abortivum***. The first, moderate, widespread in Europe, grows in conifer forests and short poor grasslands, the second, is spectacular, and rather rare. The plant is dependant throughout its life on mycorrhizal fungi. Only the stem contains chlorophyll. Cleistogamy is significant in *Limodorum*. Flowering and fruiting entirely underground has been recorded. (route 6 near Nikoloudes.)

Neotinea maculata



*Limodorum
abortivum*

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Left:

Serapias bergonii may be found from Italy to western and southern Turkey.

Below:

Serapias orientalis (syn. *S. carica*)



The last species of Samos is ***Ophrys homeri***, named after Homer, poet of ancient Greece. A rare orchid. The sepals are dark pink to pinkish, the dorsal sepal is usually curved over the column. The lip, nearly entire or 3 lobed is trapezoid rounded. The lip is reddish-brown with two basal swellings, pointed to rounded. The sides are broadly yellow.

The speculum is brownish-blue, rather broadly edged **yellow**, forming a central ocellus. Lateral ocelli encompass the basal swellings and basal field.





Ophrys homeri

Books.

Atlas of the Greek Orchids, volume 1 and 2. Zissis Antonopoulos and Spyros Tsiftsis

Orchidees d'Europe. Pierre Delforge

All photographs by the author, Gerrit Eijkelenboom.

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--- New Galanthus Cultivars ---

New Snowdrop cultivars for 2023 – by Anne Wright.

[Dryad nursery](#) has introduced several new snowdrop cultivars for 2023 - some with a mythological bent to their naming, giving the Myths and Legends series – several new cultivars are described here. Photos © the author.

‘DRYAD LETO’

In Greek mythology, Leto was a goddess who caught Zeus’s perpetually wandering eye, and conceived twins by him. Knowing that Hera, wife of Zeus, was famously jealous and cruel in her vengeance against Zeus’ other lovers, she knew that she had to keep the pregnancy secret, and to find a place hidden from Hera in which to give birth. Her twin children were Apollo and Artemis.



‘Dryad Leto’

Our ‘Dryad Leto’, lovely enough to catch Zeus’s attention, also holds a secret – she was deliberately bred to be a prospective mother of yellow inverse poculiforms (ipocs for short), having as her own parents ‘Wendy’s Gold’ and ‘Trym’ (the ancestor of all ipocs found in gardens). This means that when crossed with any yellow snowdrop, you have a chance of a

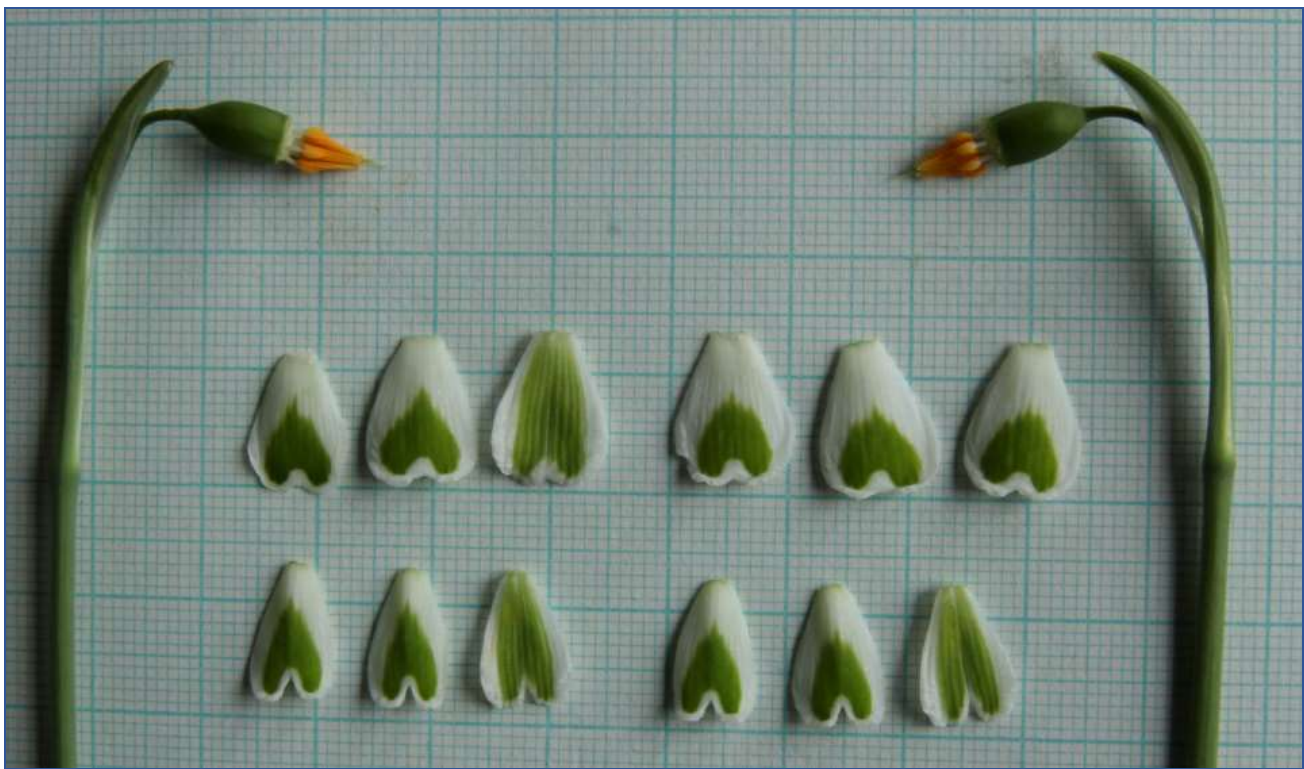
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yellow ipoc in the seedlings. This she has done in our breeding programme, when crossed with 'Spindlestone Surprise', and 'Dryad Venus', and hopefully some of our other seedlings that have not yet reached flowering size.

We are releasing 'Dryad Leto' to encourage other growers to try breeding new varieties themselves, and to discover what fun it can be to see those first yellow marks on the outside of the first bud.

Hand pollinate with any yellow in your collection, or, if you trust the bees, plant her out amongst some yellow cultivars and hope they know what they're doing (Really? You trust the bees?)

Beautiful in her own right, 'Dryad Leto's flowers betray her amorous background with striking, large emerald hearts on both the inner and outer segments, gracefully pendant from stems 25cm high, displaying well above the arching, plicate leaves.



'Dryad Leto'

Galanthus 'Dryad Leto' parentage: G. 'Wendy's Gold' x 'Trym'

Flowering height 250 - 300mm (under glass, probably shorter outside). Leaves broad, plicate, arching, approximately 150mm long at flowering time.

Scapes upright. Ovary cylindrical, tapering slightly to the junction with the outer segments.

Ovary length: width approximately 1.4:1

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Flower shape conical, forming an equilateral triangle in profile. Flower length including ovary 20mm. Straight pedicel equal to the length of the slightly curved spathe.

Outer segments are longitudinally ridged, 13mm long by 10mm wide, with a sinus notch at the apex. The outer margin of the outer segments is upturned along the lower perimeter.

The mark on each outer segment is a rich green, inverted heart with acute point, extending 2/3 of the way to the base. The inner surface carries a longitudinal green mark covering the central half of the segment, with paler veins and bordered with white.

The inner segments are 12 x 8 mm, the inner segment mark is a green, elongated inverted heart extending 3/4 of the way to the base. The inner surface is similarly marked to the outer segments.

This variety was bred to be used as a parent in the breeding of yellow-marked inverse poculiforms.



'Dryad Leto'

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'DRYAD HERA'

Hera was the queen of the gods in Greek mythology, wife to Zeus, with whom she had a very complicated and stormy relationship, characterised by Zeus taking many adulterous lovers, and Hera's revenge upon them. If ever there was a dysfunctional family, this was it! Hera is best known for her quite understandable jealousy against the women involved, although often they were tricked into it by Zeus. Bafflingly, Hera is the goddess of marriage.

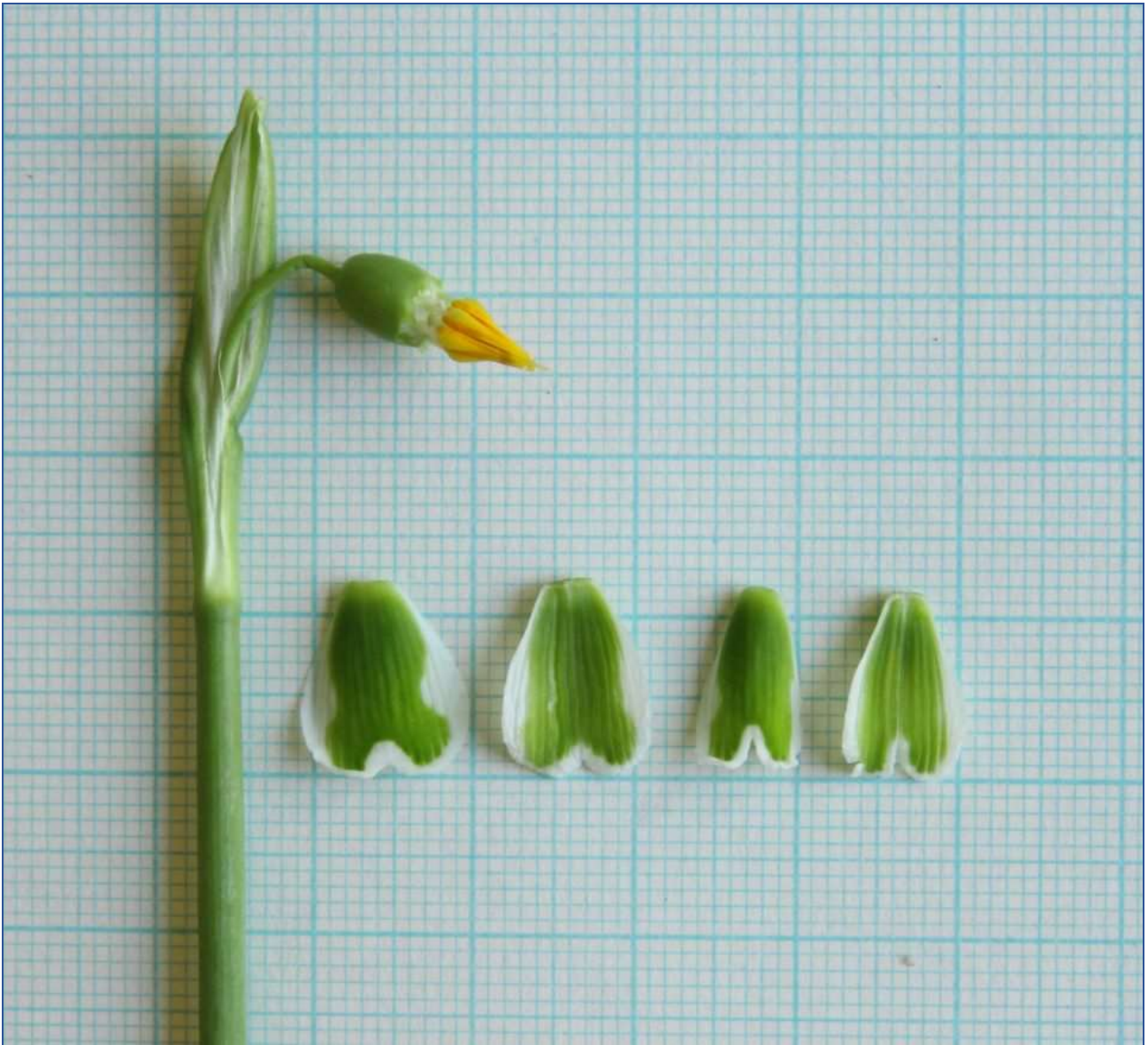


'Dryad Hera'

Our 'Dryad Hera' is very upright in both her stems and leaves, and shorter-growing than Zeus at only 20cm under glass. In contrast to Zeus's bold stripe, Hera's outer markings are

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appropriately broader and curvier, with a pronounced feminine 'waist', which also distinguishes her from 'Dryad Demeter', whose outer mark is very smooth in outline.



'Dryad Hera'

Galanthus 'Dryad Hera' parentage *G. plicatus* 'Trimmer' x 'South Hayes' F2

Flowering height 175 - 190mm (under glass, probably shorter outside). Leaves plicate, erect, approximately 120mm long at flowering time, displaying the flowers well.

Scapes upright. Ovary cylindrical, tapering to pedicel, and slightly pinched at the junction with the outer segments. Ovary length: width approximately 5:4.

Flower shape conical. Flower length including ovary 17mm. Pedicel 60% the length of the straight spathe.

Outer segments longitudinally ridged, 12mm long by 11mm wide, with a sinus notch at the apex, which is upturned. The mark on each outer segment bright green, deeper to the base,

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extending full length of segment, except for a white rim, and narrowing about two thirds from base to form a 'waist'. No 'claw'. The inner surface bears a similar mark extending to the base, but only slightly 'waisted'.

The inner segments are 11 x 8 mm, inner segment mark similar to the outer segments, but less narrowed at the waist. The inner surface is almost entirely rich green, with white veins and perimeter.



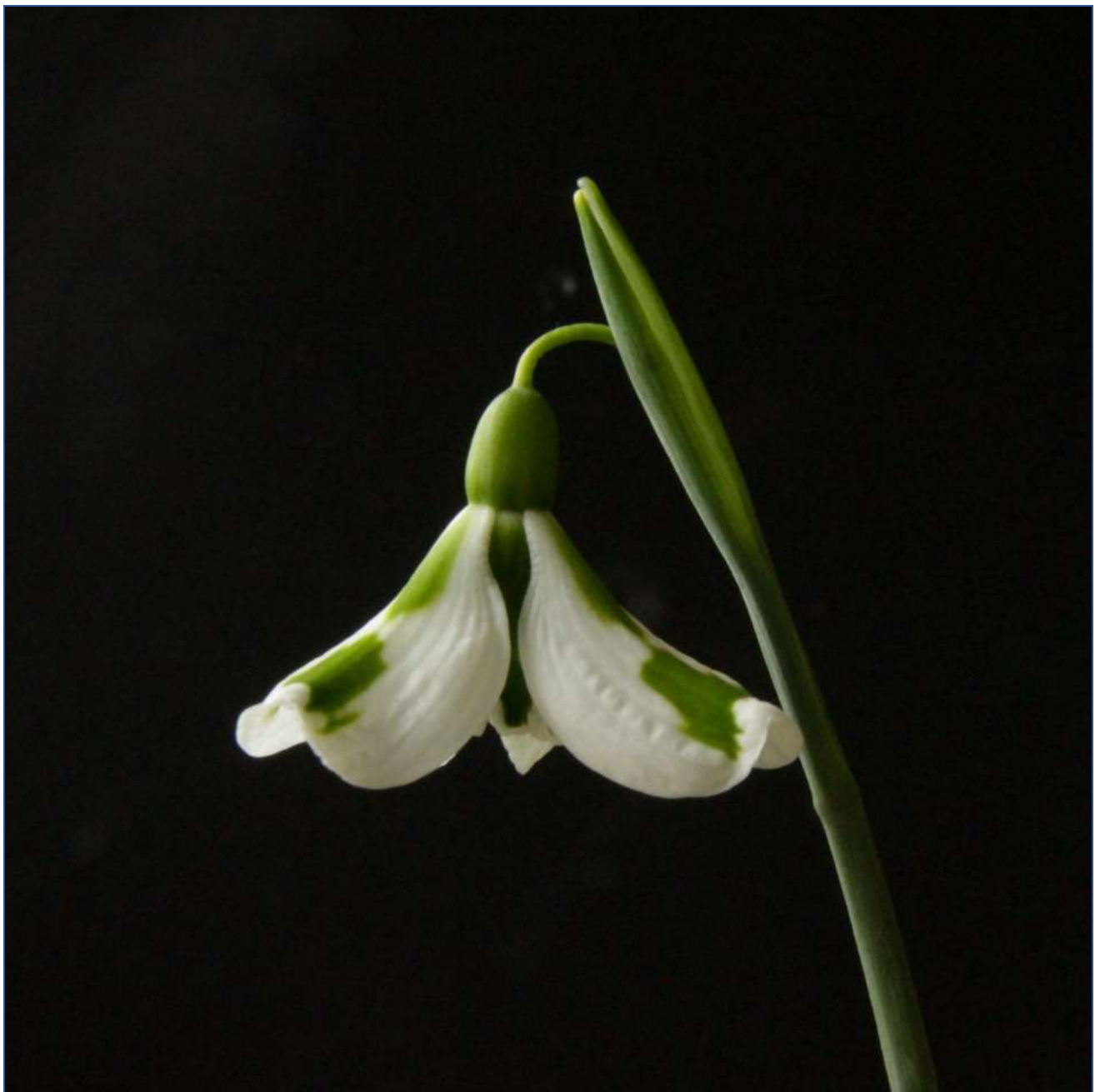
'Dryad Hera'

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'DRYAD PEGASUS'

This seedling, and 'DRYAD BELLEROPHON', have long been admired here at the nursery for their 'flyaway' outer segments, giving the impression that they are about to take flight. They have been named, appropriately, after Pegasus, the winged horse, and his rider, Bellerophon.

Pegasus is one of the best-known characters in Greek mythology, having many adventures with his rider including slaying the Chimera. After being brought to Olympus, he was used to carry Zeus' thunderbolts.



'Dryad Pegasus'

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His snowdrop, 'Dryad Pegasus', spreads its wing-like outer segments widely, displaying the dark green inner marking in sharp contrast to the white margins of the outer segments.

Growing to about 20cm under glass, the slightly arching plicate leaves are only half the height of the flowering stems, meaning the flowers appear to fly above the foliage.

The outer segments are twice as long as the inner, and deeply folded in half lengthways, while the side view shows the segments also curving upwards towards the apex, and a final flick at the end. The texture is waxy and corrugated lengthwise. The marks on the outer segment are a rich green, deep inverted U reaching to about halfway to the base, then a separate diffuse, apple-green central stripe.

The inner segments are not flared, and bear a deep green, sharply waisted mark for almost the entire length, except for a crisp white margin.



'Dryad Pegasus'

Galanthus 'Dryad Pegasus' parentage *G.plicatus* 'Trymlet' x 'South Hayes'

Flowering height 190 - 210mm (under glass, probably shorter outside). Leaves narrow, plicate, upright to slightly arching, approximately 110mm long at flowering time.

Scapes upright. Ovary conical, narrowing at the junction with the outer segments and slightly shouldered into the pedicel. Ovary length: width approximately 6:5.

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Basic flower shape conical., with the outer segments sweeping out and up. Flower length including ovary approximately 26mm. Pedicel equal or exceeding the length of the straight spathe.

Outer segments paddle-shaped, strongly folded down laterally, and curving out and upwards longitudinally, 19mm long by 10mm wide (folded), with a small sinus notch at the upturned apex. Claw 2.5mm long. The heavily textured outer segments are strongly longitudinally ridged and puckered.

There are two outer segment marks, the larger apical mark a rich green, indistinct broad inverted U, separated by a white margin from the apex. The small basal mark is a pale green indistinct line from about a third of the way from the base of the segment, almost reaching the base. The inner surface bears a central green streak extending from the base, expanding to diffusely mirror the outer mark at the apex.

The inner segments are 12 x 9 mm, with a deep, narrow sinus, and upturned rim. The single inner mark is dark green, extending almost from the base up to a crisp white margin at the apex. It is very strongly narrowed to a 'waist' about two thirds of the way from the base. The inner surface mark is dark green, with a white perimeter, in addition to a 'shadow' of the mark on the outer surface.



'Dryad Pegasus'

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'DRYAD BELLEROPHON'

Bellerophon, in Greek mythology, tamed and rode Pegasus using a magic bridle, and together they had many victories exploiting the fact that Pegasus could allow them to attack from above. Unfortunately, his arrogance persuaded him that he should reside among the gods on Olympus, and his pride was followed by him falling off attempting to get there, which some might say was divine justice!



'Dryad Bellerophon'

'Dryad Bellerophon', his snowdrop, is similar in stature and demeanour to his steed, Dryad Pegasus, but the 'wings' spread less widely to about 45 degrees to the axis of the flower. The outer segments are broad, softly folded lengthwise and uptilted at the apex, dimpled and corrugated in texture. The outer mark is an indistinct inverted U near to the apex, separated widely from the small, more diffuse and paler oval ending just before the long claw, which clearly reveals the inner mark.

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The inner segments are shorter than the outers and bear a double mark. The apical mark is a clear-cut inverted V, with a white margin around the sinus, while the basal mark is two diffuse ovals, usually joined by a narrow bridge, giving the impression of two fierce eyes peering out.



'Dryad Bellerophon'

Galanthus 'Dryad Bellerophon' parentage *G. x valentini* 'South Hayes' x 'Spindlestone Surprise'

Flowering height 190 - 210mm (under glass, probably shorter outside). Leaves broad, plicate, arching, approximately 140mm long at flowering time.

Scapes upright. Ovary conical, narrowing at the junction with the outer segments and with a smooth transition to the pedicel. Ovary length: width approximately 9:5.

Basic flower shape conical., with the outer segments sweeping out and up. Flower length including ovary 30mm. Pedicel almost equal the length of the broad, slightly curved spathe.

Outer segments broad and paddle-shaped, curving out and upwards longitudinally, but downwards horizontally, 21mm long by 15mm wide, with a small sinus notch at the upturned

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apex. The 5mm long claw displays the inner segment eye markings. The textured outer segments are randomly ridged and corrugated.

There are two outer segment marks, the larger apical mark a rich green, indistinct broad inverted U, separated by a white margin from the apex. The smaller basal mark is a paler green soft oval at about a quarter of the way from the base of the segment. The inner surface bears a central green streak extending almost to the base.

The inner segments are 13 x 10 mm. There are two inner segment marks: the apical mark is a deep green inverted V, extending to 40% of the length of the segment. The basal mark is a bright green soft double oval, usually joined by a central narrow bridge, but sometimes separated, giving the appearance of 'eyes' The inner surface mark is rich green, with white veins and perimeter, in addition to a 'shadow' of the outer surface. The flower is honey scented.



'Dryad Bellerophon'

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'DRYAD ARGUS'

This unique little snowdrop is something quite different from our other Myths and Legends, a true eye-poc!

A deliberate cross between *Galanthus fosteri* x *G. woronowii* 'Cider with Rosie', it has a distinctive pair of eye spots on each outer segment.

It is named after Argus, who in Greek mythology, had many eyes looking in all directions, his all-round vision making him the perfect watchman, set to guard one of Zeus's target females by the jealous Hera.



'Dryad Argus'

'Dryad Argus' is a compact snowdrop growing to 15cm with glossy, bright green arching leaves. The upright stems carry the neatly conical flowers, each with the two 'eyes' on each outer segment.

The outers are spoon-shaped, with a long claw, and slight mucro at the apex, while the reverse shows a large green oval beyond the claw, broken by white veins and margin.

The shorter, triangular inner segments have a sharply defined, shallow dark green 'bridge' over the sinus, while on the reverse, this extends towards the base, gradually fading to white before reaching it.

---International Rock Gardener---



'Dryad Argus'

Galanthus 'Dryad Argus' parentage *Galanthus fosteri* x *G. woronowii* 'Cider with Rosie'

Flowering height 140 - 150mm (under glass, probably shorter outside). Leaves supervolute, arching, bright green, approximately 130mm long at flowering time.

Scapes upright. Ovary cylindrical, tapering abruptly to the pedicel, and narrowed at the junction with the outer segments. Ovary length: width approximately 8:5

Flower shape conical, forming an equilateral triangle in profile. Flower length including ovary 28mm. Straight pedicel equal to, or slightly exceeding, the length of the slightly curved green spathe.

Outer segments are spoon-shaped, smooth textured, 20mm long by 11mm wide, incurved laterally, with no sinus notch, but slightly mucronate at the apex. There is a 6mm long claw.

The marks on each outer segment comprise two bright green spots, sometimes slightly elongated to form shallow inverted U shapes. The inner surface carries a longitudinal green mark covering the central half of the segment, with paler veins and bordered with white.

The inner segments are 13 x 9 mm, the inner segment mark is a neat, dark green 'bridge' over the sinus. The inner surface mark mirrors the outer surface mark at the apex, but extends as green lines, fading gradually, almost to the base.



'Dryad Argus'

DRYAD GREEN GROUP

We are happy to finally be able to release some seedlings from our green breeding programme.

They will all be named for musical forms, to group them together, but there will only be a few clones selected for naming, as so many seedlings resemble the parents too closely. In other words, it will be a chamber orchestra rather than a philharmonic.

The first two members are sister seedlings, 'DRYAD CONCERTO' and 'DRYAD SONATO', bred from *G.elwesii* 'Eilys Elisabeth Hartley' x 'Rosemary Burnham'.



'Dryad Concerto'

'**DRYAD CONCERTO**' more closely takes after her mother, Eilys Elisabeth Hartley, inheriting the beautiful overall shape, similar to a crinoline skirt flaring out from the claw, sometimes likened to an old-fashioned lightbulb. The daughter, though, has a longer apple-green mark covering the apical half of the segment, with a narrow white margin and white spot at the tip. The long claw is shaded pale green.

On a warm day, the outers will open widely to show the prettily marked inner segments, which are almost wholly bright emerald green, paling just before the base, and becoming deeper around the sinus. The narrow white margin reaches inwards towards the midline just above the sinus, forming a 'waist', and separating out the different shades of green.

---International Rock Gardener---

'Dryad Concerto' grows to about 20cm in flower, with broad leaves arching outwards towards their tips typical of its *elwesii* lineage.



'Dryad Concerto'

***Galanthus* 'Dryad Concerto'** parentage *G. elwesii* 'Eilys Elisabeth Hartley' x 'Rosemary Burnham'

Flowering height 200mm (under glass, probably shorter outside). Leaves supervolute, erect to arching, approximately 24 x 180mm at flowering time.

Scapes upright. Ovary rounded, length: width approximately 6:4.

Flower length including ovary 28mm. Pedicel equal to the length of the hooked spathe.

The outer segments are longitudinally ridged, 22mm long by 14mm wide, incurved lengthwise and crosswise. The mark on each outer segment covers 50% of the length of the segment, apple green and continuous at apex, except for a white 'spot' at the tip, continuing in striations towards the base, and a pale lime-green shading at the 'shoulder' where the segment narrows into the narrow, 5mm long 'claw'.

---International Rock Gardener---

The inner segments are 12 x 8mm, the inner segment mark covers almost the entire segment, except for a white edge, and is a rich emerald green, shading to dark green around the sinus, the junction between the two shades of green narrower than the rest of the mark. The flower is scented.



‘Dryad Concerto’

‘**DRYAD SONATA**’, in contrast to her sister, slightly favours her pollen parent, ‘Rosemary Burnham’, but is more heavily, and variously, marked with green. Similar in height to ‘Dryad Concerto’ at 20cm, the leaves are broad, upright, and slightly twisted, with hooded tips. The flowers are attractively bell-shaped, constricting into the long claw, with the margins of the distal half of the outer segments distinctively rolled upwards, giving the segment an unusual spear shape, or ‘quilled’ appearance.

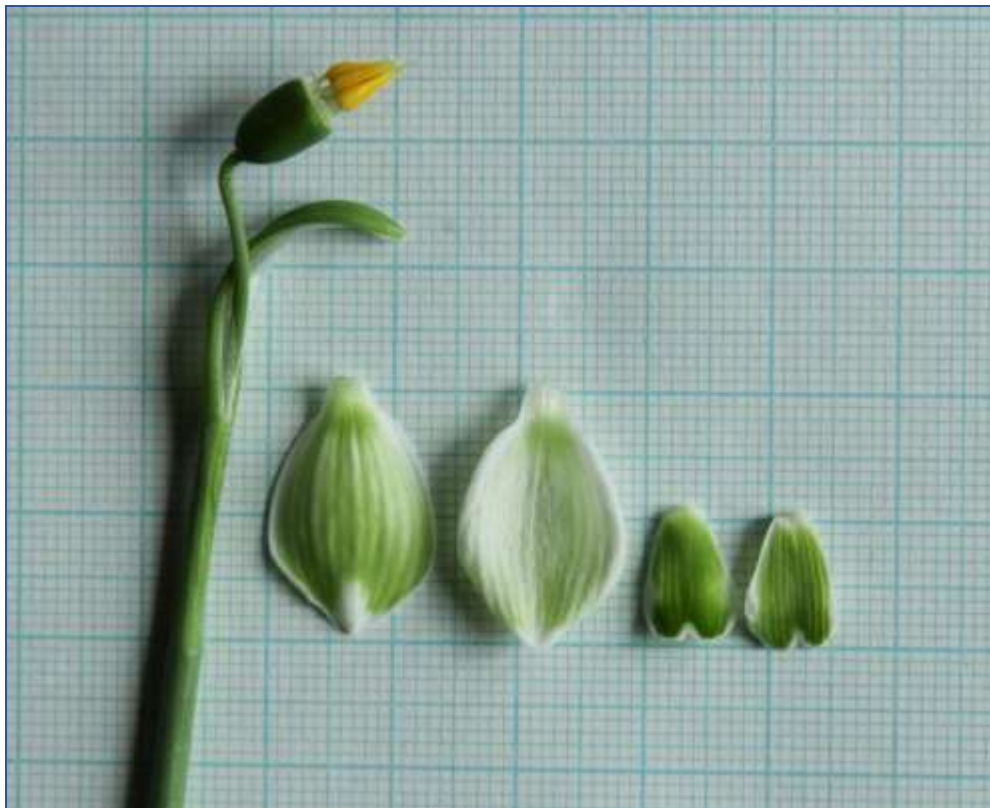
The outer segment mark covers almost the whole of the surface, except for a prominent white spot at the apex, which is common to most of the seedlings from this cross. The deep apple-green colouring is solid at the shoulder and apex, dissolving into lines following the textured furrows in between.

---International Rock Gardener---

The inner segments, similar to 'Dryad Concerto', are almost wholly bright emerald, darker over the sinus, and with a paler 'waist' constriction between the two shades.



'Dryad Sonata'



'Dryad Sonata'

---International Rock Gardener---

Galanthus 'Dryad Sonata' parentage *G. elwesii* 'Eilys Elisabeth Hartley' x 'Rosemary Burnham'

Flowering height 200mm (under glass, probably shorter outside). Leaves supervolute, erect, approximately 18 x 150mm at flowering time.

Scapes upright. Ovary cylindrical, length: width approximately 4:3

Flower length including ovary 28mm. Pedicel two thirds of the length of the hooked spathe.

The outer segments are longitudinally ridged, 20mm long by 16mm wide, incurved lengthwise and crosswise. Each outer segment is shaded apple-green, continuously at base and apex except for a white 'spot' at the tip, but in striations along the furrows in between. There is a 3mm long 'claw'. Distinctively, the distal half of the outer segment perimeter is upturned, giving the segment a noticeable triangular shape.

The inner segments are 11 x 8mm, the inner segment mark covers almost the entire segment, except for a white edge, and is a rich emerald green, shading to dark green around the sinus, the junction between the two shades of green slightly narrower and paler than the rest of the mark. The under surface is almost entirely emerald green, with paler veins. The flower is scented.



'Dryad Sonata'