

COL·LABORACIÓ ENTRE EL *GRUP DE RECERCA DE LES TERRES DE L'EBRE* I LA *MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY*

Esta primavera, un dels membres d'esta Societat, Brian Constable, es va posar en contacte amb nosaltres per tal de poder fer una campanya fotogràfica aprofitant que l'autor del llibre "FLOWERS OF CRETE" John Fielding, visitava les Terres de l'Ebre per a fer una conferència a Tortosa sobre la importància de les plantes mediterrànies en el món de la jardineria.

Esta col·laboració es va concretar en una excursió botànica a la Serra del Montsià el dia 5 de maig de 2011. A continuació, Brian Constable fa un breu relat de l'excursió i ens mostra unes fotos de la sortida i alguna de les plantes fotografiades.



Foto 1

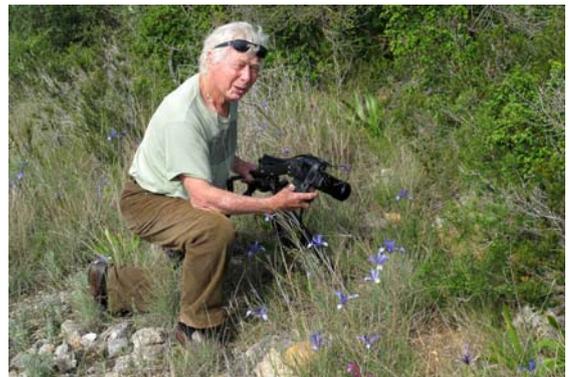


Foto 2



Foto 3



Foto 4



Foto 5

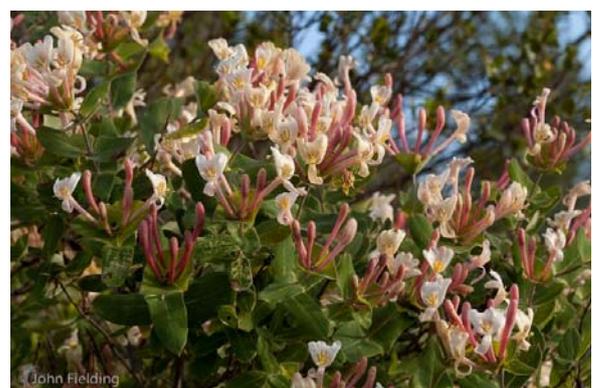


Foto 6

An Afternoon's Guided Tour of Montsia

“An orange building. A restaurant a couple of kilometres after crossing the Ebro on the N340 . I can't remember the name but you can't miss it”.

Salvador's instructions were quite right and we met him there at 4 o'clock on a Friday afternoon in April.

Over a cup of coffee he pulled out of his pocket two A4 sheet full of the names of plants he thought might be interesting. No guarantees about them being in flower right now nor that he could find them all but...

Salvador Cardero who is the main photographer in the 3 volume set of books “Plants del Port” had kindly agreed to take John Fielding and myself on a trip in the Montsia mountain which is just South of the river Ebro. John was here for a week photographing the local flora before going on the MGS U.K. branch trip to Northern Cataluña.

He looked through the list and after discussion of possibilities we set off choosing the nearest first. Within ten minutes we were photographing *Iris xiphium* with *Anacyclus valentinus* and walked just further up the road to be shown two isolated bulbs of *Ornithogalum arabicum* that were just at the end of flowering. In the adjacent habitat were plenty of *Coris monspeliensis* a strange but beautiful primula relative.

Moving on from here we stopped by some fields where on a corner by a track was a drift of *Stachys ocymastrum*.

Back in the cars once again heading up hill with Salvador leading the way I was suddenly, and quite normally, blasted with “Stop, Stop, Stop”.

Of course I had seen nothing. I was driving. But on the left were two or three *Digitalis obscura*. Just beautiful and well worth a burst eardrum.

A few hundred meters further on we stopped to photograph *Lonicera implexa* and *Jasminum fruticans*. Down a slope amongst some rubble was a perfect plant of *Aristolochia pistolochia* in full flower.

We had spent so long taking photographs that it was already becoming dark and our host had to be back home by 8 o'clock so reluctantly we said our goodbyes and turned back to Ampolla.

Dropping off the mountain we had some splendid views of the Ebro Delta which made a fitting backdrop to one of John's last pictures of *Chamaerops humilis*. In the setting sun we promised ourselves to come again next year and spend more time in this mountain so full of flora.

Salvador could not have been more kind and helpful and we would never have found what we did without his guide. We look forward to seeing him again next year.

Brian Constable

Foto 1 i 5 John Fielding. Foto 2 Brian Constable.

Foto 3 *Chamaerops humilis*. Foto 4 *Iris Xiphium*. Foto 6 *Lonicera implexa*