

# The Meconopsis Group



Future Direction



# The Meconopsis Group

- To study the genus Meconopsis by scientific research and to promote its cultivation and conservation
- Inaugural meeting 12<sup>th</sup> September 1998
- Initially: to investigate the identity and nomenclature of the perennial blue Meconopsis in cultivation
- Eventually: desirable to extend the remit of the Group to investigate problems concerning other members of the genus

# Group Achievements

- 47 large perennial hybrids and species named and allocated one of five categories
- Identification key or table in preparation
- 59 hybrids and species awaiting decision on naming

**Trials run 2010-2013 resulting in:**

- 10 Awards of Garden Merit in 2013 (2 more from 1993)
- 8 Awards of Merit
- 6 Preliminary Commendations

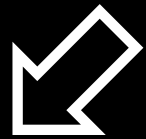
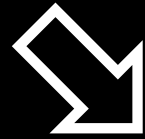
**Seed Exchange, biannual meetings, website, annual stand at Gardening Scotland, membership etc etc**

1. Collect wild seeds ± plants, describe, name

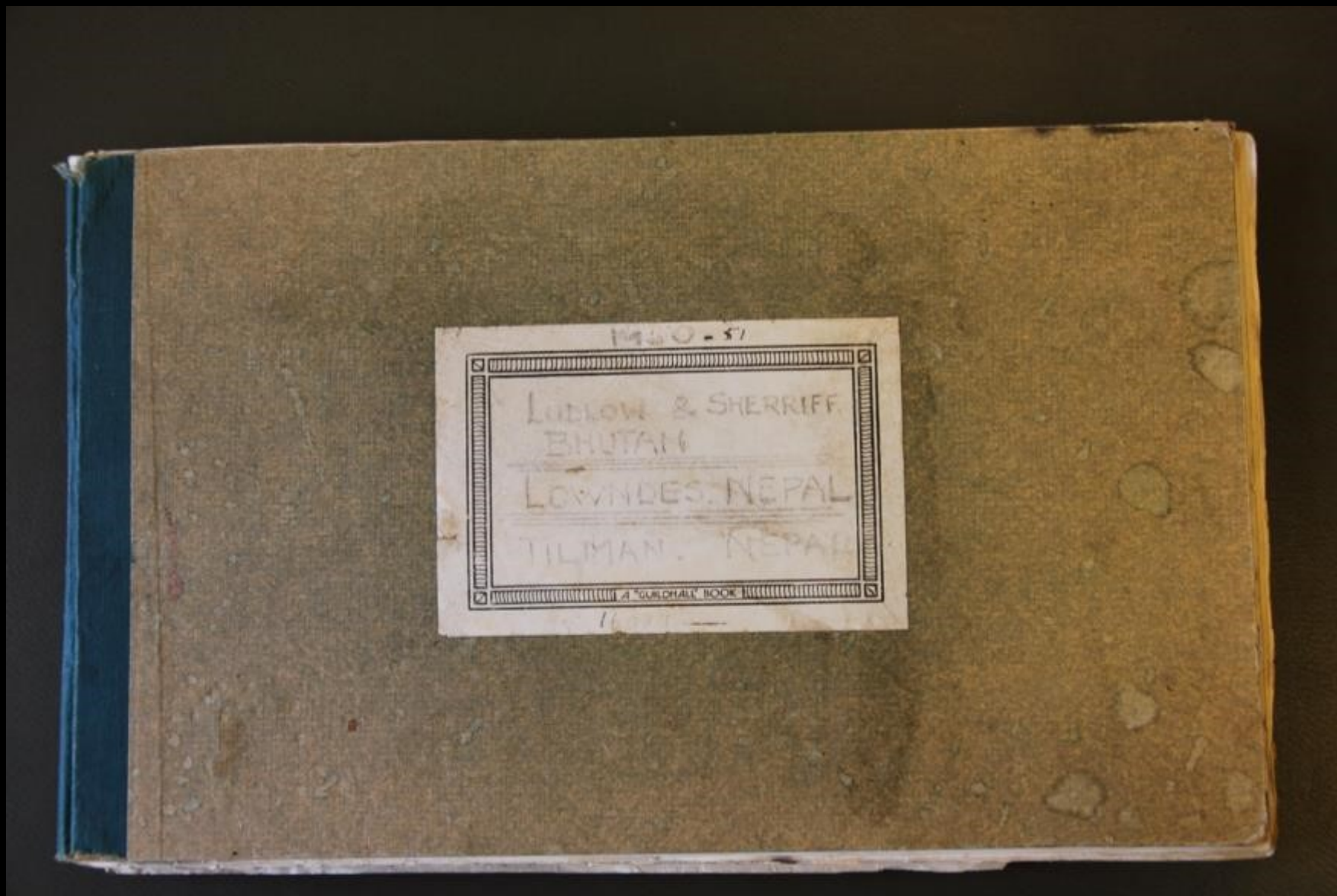
2. Grow seeds and propagate plants

3. Improve by selection and crossing species

4. Lose species from cultivation



Seeds received by Mrs Knox Finlay at Keillour Castle, L & S:  
Bhutan 1949, Lowndes and Tilman Nepal

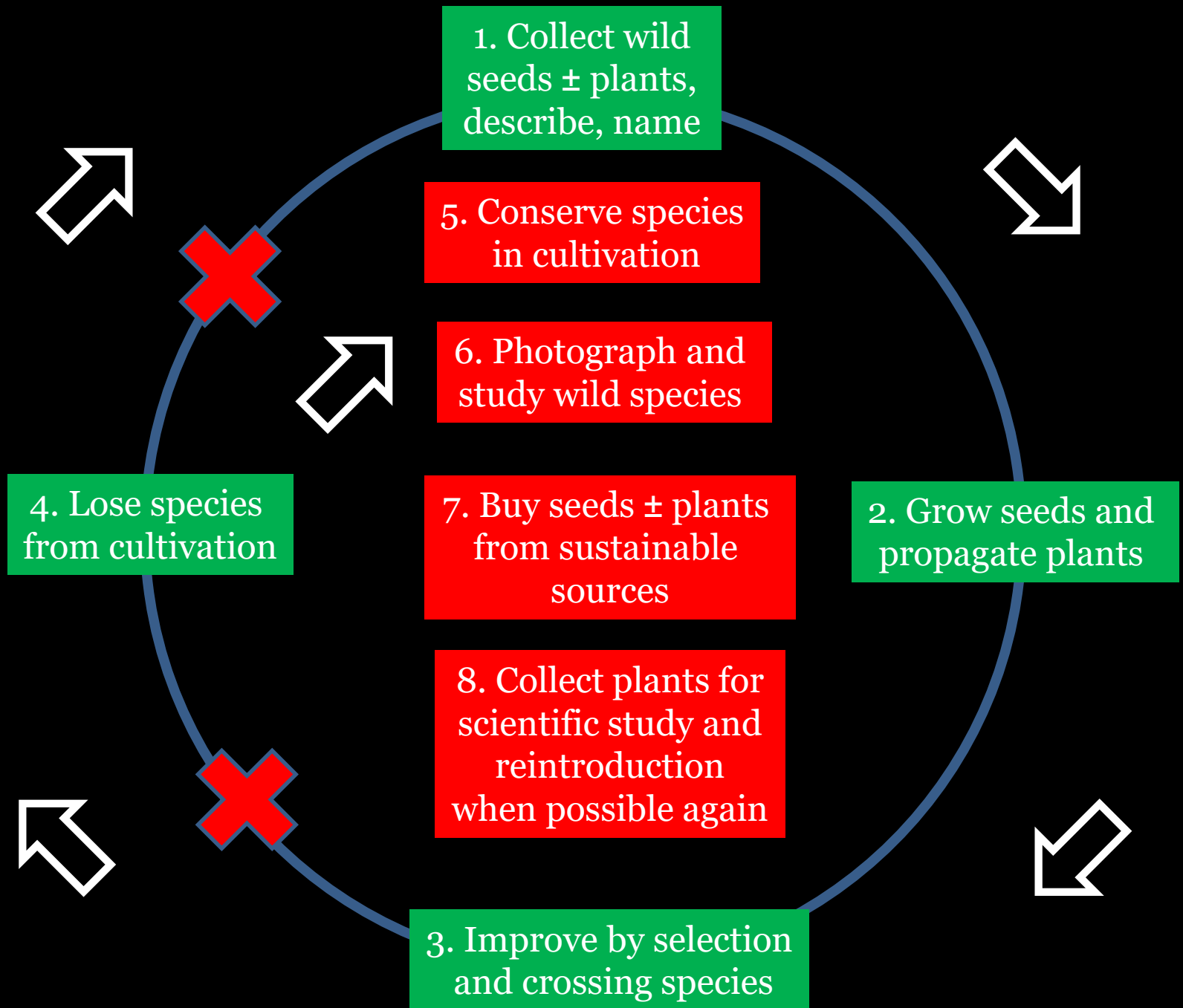


# Seeds received by Mrs Knox Finlay at Keillour Castle from Ludlow & Sherriff's 1949 Expedition to Bhutan

- 16 -					
Number	Name	Locality	Altitude	Date	Collector's Notes
✓19484	Geranium sp.	Lamberti <sup>ex</sup> Dhar Chu ✓	11,500 ft.	5.10.49.	1 ft. high. With very large mauve or pink mauve flower.
✓19488	Meconopsis bella	Dhar Chu ✓	12,000	5.10.49.	On cliff ledges.
✓19490	Lilium sp. nov.?	Sherriff " ✓	11,500	17.9.49.	Open hillsides or on cliffs. Biggest in forest. Always steep ground.
✓19494	Polygonum sp.	" " ✓	12,000	5.10.49.	With fine big pink flowers in a loose head. In forest.
✓19497		" " ✓	11,000	5.10.49.	Little yellow ground orchid. 2-3".
✓19518	Astilbe sp.?	Tealimape	8,000	21.10.49.	Pink 3 ft. Usually on wet slopes.
✓19544a	Thalictrum Chelidonium	Kyikyil La, Bumthang.	11,500	13.10.49.	Up to 7-8 ft.
✓19544b	- do -	Marathang, Rinchen Chu.	10,500	17.10.49.	
✓19544c	- do -	Hing Lai La, Wangdipotrong	11,000	21.10.49.	
✓19544d	- do -	Bumthang, Ha	10,000	30.10.49.	
✓19572	- do -	Unlocalized	8,000	18.10.49.	✓ Gesneraceae. On verticle cliffs and rock faces. Flowers dull dark red.
✓19573	Anemone sp.	Chendebi	8-10,000	17.10.49.	Like <u>A. japonica</u> 2-3-6 ft. high. Flowers white or pale pink.
✓19574	Primula flagolaris	- do -	8,500	16.10.49.	On cliff faces, open position, or under overhanging cliffs.
✓19577	Campanula sp.	- do -	9,000	17.10.49.	Pale blue up to 3 ft.
✓19580	Dicentra sp.	- do -	8,500	16.10.49.	Creeping over shrubs in dense cover.
✓19598	Campanula sp.	Tealimape	7,500	22.10.49.	6-9 inches. Blue violet striped darker. On rocky banks and on cliffs.
✓19579		Chendebi	9,000	17.10.49.	Small plant with one leaf and one flower above it. A pretty dwarf plant of 2-3 inches. On cliff faces.
✓19581	Morina sp.	Ritang	11,000	17.10.49.	1 1/2-2 ft. Fine deep pink flowers. Quite a fine plant. On open hillsides. Only 20 seed.
✓19581B	Morina sp.	Bela La Paro	10,000	23.10.49.	2 ft. Deep rose. Open steep slopes.
✓19582	Leptodermis sp.?	Ritang	6,500	18.10.49.	Shrub 2-3 ft.
✓19594	Pyrola sp.	Yuto La, Tongsa	10,500	14.10.49.	
✓19597	Ceratostigma Griffithianum	Tealimape	7,500	22.10.49.	On stony open hillside or on cliffs. 30 seed.
✓19613	Bryocarpus himalaicum	Shole La, Wangdipotrong	10,000	27.8.49.	Grows among sphagnum moss in forest.
✓19617	Meconopsis superba	Unlocalized	9,000	23.10.49.	aff. vinciflora, but with wine red ring. Among holly, oak, shrubs.
✓19620A	Codonopsis sp. aff. vinciflora	Paro #2. (18)			Rather dry open situation.
✓19596					

Seeds received by Mrs Knox Finlay at Keillour Castle  
from Ludlow & Sherriff's 1949 Expedition to Bhutan

- *M. bella*: 17312, 19488, 19793, 21124
- *M. bhutanica* (*M. discigera*): 17455
- *M. grandis*: 21069
- *M. horridula*: 17229, 17300, 21198
- *M. ludlowii* (*M. lancifolia* var *concinna*) corrected to  
*M. primulina*: 17446, 17461
- *M. paniculata*: 17233, 19799, 21168
- *M. primulina*: 17338, 17370, 17426, 17427
- *M. sherriffii*: 17231A, 17231B, 17231C, 17253, 17271,
- *M. simplicifolia*: 17232, 17301, 17371, 18995A, 18995B,  
19854, 21162
- *M. sinuata*: 17299, 19052, 19745, 19810, 21131, 21194
- *M. superba*: 17562, 19617
- *M. wallichii* var *fuscopurpurea* (*M. nepalensis*): 19855





## Activity

## Meconopsis Group Input

## Outcomes

1. Collect wild seeds ± plants, describe, name

6. Photograph and study wild species

8. Collect plants for scientific study and reintroduction when possible again

- Study past expeditions, check taxa, define locations
- Produce photographic checklists and identification assistance
- Disseminate information – websites, talks, journals,
- Encourage DNA studies

Identify and fill gaps in knowledge  
Encourage and inform new research  
Make new discoveries and introductions  
Establish relationships between species

2. Grow seeds and propagate plants

5. Conserve species in cultivation

3. Improve by selection & crossing species

- Identify species still in cultivation
- Support people who grow them successfully
- Advise on best practice: grow species in isolation hand pollinate, winter cover
- Name new hybrids, cultivars

Establish status of all species in cultivation  
Simplify identification of wild & cultivated plants  
Conserve species in cultivation  
Create new hybrids and cultivars

4. Lose species from cultivation

7. Buy seeds ± plants from sustainable indigenous sources

- Research circumstances of loss to prevent repetition
- Encourage indigenous people to grow plants in cultivation and sell us the seeds

Create sustainable supplies of seed of species already in cultivation, of new species and of reintroductions

PLANT PRESS  
A BOTANICAL MAGAZINE MONOGRAPH



THE GENUS  
**MECONOPSIS**

*Blue poppies and their relatives*

CHRISTOPHER GREY-WILSON

- 76 species
- 3 naturally occurring hybrids
- ~ 30 new or revised taxa:
  - 5 species
  - 1 hybrid
  - 19 subspecies
  - 3 varieties
  - 2 forma

New species:

M. lhasaensis  
M. lijiangensis  
M. ludlowii  
M. sulphurea  
M. zhongdianensis

# What should be the Meconopsis Group's next priority?

- Establish the status of Meconopsis species in cultivation
- Prevent any more from being lost

# Meconopsis species ± **secure** in cultivation

- baileyi baileyi
- grandis grandis
- **paniculata**
- prattii
- **punicea**
- quintuplinervia
- racemosa
- **superba**



# Meconopsis species ± **lost** from cultivation in UK

- argemonantha
- bella
- bhutanica
- bijiangensis
- discigera
- forrestii
- horridula
- impedita
- lancifolia
- latifolia
- ludlowii
- lyrata
- pinnatifolia
- prainiana
- primulina

- pseudointegrifolia
- pseudovenusta
- regia
- robusta
- sherriffii
- sinuata
- simplicifolia grandiflora
- sinomaculata
- speciosa
- taylorii
- torquata
- venusta
- violacea
- wallichii fuscopurpurea
- etc etc

# Meconopsis species **scarce** in cultivation

\* Recently in seed exchange

- aculeata \*
- baileyi pratensis
- betonicifolia
- delavayi \*
- dhwojii \*
- gracilipes
- grandis **orientalis**\*
- henrici \*
- integrifolia \*
- **napaulensis** \*
- rudis \*
- simplicifolia simplicifolia
- **staintonii** \*
- sulphurea sulphurea\*
- **tibetica** \*
- wallichii wallichii \*
- wilsonii orientalis
- wilsonii wilsonii \*







# Identity and conservation of perennial *Meconopsis* species and subspecies

- *M. baileyi* (subsp *baileyi*, *pratensis*, *multidentata*)
- *M. betonicifolia*
- *M. grandis* (subsp *grandis*, *orientalis*, *jumlaensis*)
- *M. simplicifolia* (subsp *simplicifolia*, *grandis*)
  
- *M. punicea*
- *M. quintuplinervia*
- *M. delavayi*
  
- *M. bella* (subsp *bella*, *grandifolia*, *subintegrifolia*)
- *M. sherriffii*



# *M. grandis* subsp *orientalis*





*M. grandis* subsp *grandis*





*M. simplicifolia* subsp *simplicifolia*



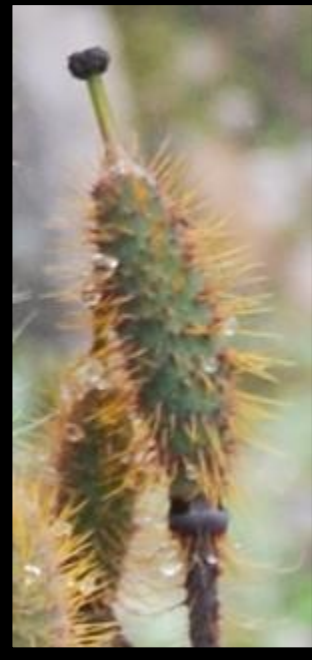


*M. simplicifolia*  
subsp *grandiflora*





# M. dhwojii



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