

## SRGC Eastern Turkey Tour – early May 2012

If you would love to explore the mountains of Turkey but are uncertain where to start, why not join this SRGC trip to some of the country's most biodiverse areas, led by botanical experts Professor Adil Güner, his daughter Basak and son-in-law, Chris Gardner?

We will fly initially to Istanbul for a visit to the Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanic Garden, subject of Adil's fascinating presentation at last year's Late Bulb Show, before a further flight to Trabzon on the Black Sea coast from where our mountain explorations begin.

In travelling for overnight stays at hotels in Bayburt, Erzurum, Erzincan, Kemaliye, Malatya and Karamannmaraş, we will be travelling south-west through Anatolia from the Black Sea to the north-eastern corner of the Mediterranean. We will explore the Palandöken, Otlukbeli, Subatan and Doğanşehir mountain ranges and botanize many passes: Zigana, Köse, Kop, Kolcekmez, Sakultutan, Kubbe, Karahan and Puren, offering wonderful opportunities to find numerous choice plants, a high proportion of which are endemics.

In steppe and rocky habitats we hope to see *Iris sari*, *I. kirkwoodiae*, *Tulipa armena*, *Fritillaria imperialis*, *F. persica*, *Arnebia densiflora*, *Eremurus spectabilis* and the curious brassica, *Tchihatchewia isatidea*. In woodland we expect *Dactylorhiza flavescens*, *Orchis punctulata*, *Cephalanthera kotschyana*, *Cyclamen pseudibericum* and *Helleborus orientalis*. The main focus, however, will be the mountain habitats: *Corydalis wendelboi* and *Silene ruscifolia* on lower slopes; *Saxifraga kotschyi* on cliffs; *Pulsatilla albana*, *Crocus biflorus* ssp. *taurii* and *Draba bruniiifolia* in Alpine turf, and *Fritillaria aurea* with *Corydalis henrikii* in limestone areas. We anticipate the snowmelt plants to include *Colchicum szovitsii*, *Corydalis rutifolia*, *C. oppositifolia*, *Cyclamen parviflorum*, *Gentiana verna*, *Eranthis cilicica*, *Muscari azureum*, *M. aucheri*, *M. armeniacum*, *Scilla melaina*, *S. sibirica*, *Fritillaria armena*, *F. pinardii*, *F. alburyana*, *Iris reticulata*, *Primula auriculata*, *P. elatior*, *Viola altaica* and many more.

Transport will be by minibus, giving us access to remote mountain areas, some of which have never before been fully botanically investigated. To benefit fully from this trip, participants must be fit and energetic.

Border: *Fritillaria armena* habitat

Below: eastern landscape





*Arnebia densiflora;*  
*Tchihatchewia isatidea;*

*Muscari azureum;*  
*Fritillaria persica, Black Form;*

*Fritillaria aurea;*  
*Iris sari*

The ground only price will be approximately £1700 per person sharing a double or twin (single supplement to be confirmed). A group flight will be booked from Scotland (approximately £400), but members may also join the tour in London or Istanbul.

To receive further details, please register your interest in this trip as soon as possible, by contacting David and Margaret Thorne at [craigurd@hotmail.com](mailto:craigurd@hotmail.com) or at Craigurd House, Blyth Bridge, West Linton, Peeblesshire EH46 7AH.

Border: *Muscari azureum* habitat

Below: *Onosma alborosea*

