A:*Meconopsis* at Glenarn, Rhu by Sue Thornley

Archie and Sandy Gibson developed the garden from 1927 to 1982,using the original quarry used for building the house in 1850. The garden sits in a sheltered hollow with a steeply sloping glen and an extensive collection of large leafed and tender Rhododendrons for which it is best known. Although other species such as tall Asiatic Magnolias, Crinodendrons, Eucryphias and Acers provide colour at different times of the year.

When the Thornleys arrived in 1983, the rock garden was particularly overgrown with many sapling birch and thickly vegetated paths. Several of the many 'dwarf' rhododendrons had become too large for their locations in the west coast mild and wet climate and other ornamental trees such as Sciadopytis verticillata had shaded parts of the quarry face. 4 large Picea glauca "Albertiana Conica' were growing apace and over the years, all but one have been removed.

The rock garden provides a range of habitats and protection from fully open beds to part shaded and rocky ledges. Some are dry and some quite damp. A central section has been opened up to provide scree and peat beds for small plants.

> In growing *Meconopsis*, it has been found that the garden forms of *M napaulensis* do well in the wet west coast climate and provide dramatic features as do a range of the blue (and white) poppies. The *Meconopsis* grown at Glenarn are, *M simplicifolia*, *M grandis* including ex Arunachal Pradesh, *M baileyi* 'Hensol Violet', *M wallichii*, *M quintuplinerva*, *M* 'Lingholm', *M* 'Mophead' and *M* 'Marit'.

Images were also shown during the talk of the Rock Garden as it was in 1940 and examples of other plants grown at Glenarn, which included: *Osmanthus delavey*, *Rhododendron seta* and *R moupinense*, *Tropaeolum speciosum* growing through *Picea glauca* 'Albertian Conica', *Olearia macrodonta*, *Paeonia lutea*, *Primula petiolaris, Erythronium* "White Beauty", *Paeonia rockii*, plus various trilliums.

(For further information on Glenarn look at: http://www.gardens-of-argyll.co.uk/gardens/glenarn.html)

B: *Meconopsis:* Molecular Samping by Alan Elliott

More Extensive molecular sampling of the species of *Meconopsis* are yielding a greater understanding of the genetic relationships in the genus and also shedding light on the processes driving evolution in their native range.

Published research from China has shown great genetic diversity in the Meconopsis integrifolia agg. It has also shown that an ancient hybridisation event took place with Meconopsis betonicifoia in SW China.

Soon to be published PhD research carried out in Texas has also shown a similar event is likely to have taken place between members of the Discogyne subgenus and series Robustae in the Himalaya. The increase in molecular data is highlighting the increasing difference between traditional morphology based taxonomy of the genus and one based on the genetic relationships which is leading to two concurrent and competing taxonomies for the genus.

A current undergraduate project at RBGE is looking how climate change is likely to affect our ability to grow certain plants in Scotland. Initial predictions using Meconopsis baileyi shows that with the changing climate it will be increasingly difficult (best case) to almost impossible (worst case) to grow cool temperate Meconopsis species even in Scotland.