

Measuring Meconopsis: Pat Murphy

Introduction.

1. Why Measure?

Since the Meconopsis in the National Collection at Holehird have been arranged in rows of at least three plants and in related groups e.g the George Sherriff Group; and since the conditions where they are planted are essentially the same, it should be possible, over time, to make useful comparisons between them. Although the information may not differ from that found before it is of use to do this for a new collection.

Measurements can be made using a 1m aluminium rule, a metal tape and a vernier scale.

2. What to Measure?

a) Basal leaves



Length
Width
Length / Width ratio

(During the lunch break it was suggested that taking length and width measurements at 1/3 rd of the total length would be useful)

- b) The height of the stem to the false whorl plus the number of stem leaves per stem.
- c) The height at flowering plus the height of the plant when the fruit capsules had developed.
- d) The fruit capsule. Length and width

A visual display can be made by placing the capsule on 1cm squared paper.

(Basal leaves can also be recorded on 1cm squared paper)



Preliminary results were shown for related plants in the George Sherriff Group.

All measurements to be taken over a number of years to obtain reasonable averages and on plants that had been in the ground for at least two years so that they had had time to mature. It was realised that these features to be measured could vary from year to year depending on external conditions.

e) Flower

Measurements of the size of the flower to be taken when the flower had been flattened, ready to be recorded as a herbarium specimen.

f) Herbarium specimens to be made of all of the plants in the Collection.