



Alpine Garden Society Ulster Group

Plant of the Month, September 2021

Heloniopsis japonica - shown by Gordon Finch

Gordon Finch entered an interesting photo of *Heloniopsis japonica* (syn *H. orientalis*) for the virtual show this year and I was intrigued as this was a new plant to me. Further research showed it to belong to the Melanthiaceae (Liliaceae) which grow mainly in the Northern Hemisphere, this one native in Japan.



In the June issue Of the Alpine Gardener Liz Knowles, our 'Zoom' speaker for October, describes finding *H. orientalis* growing wild there.

Ysilandra thibetica, also a member of this group, grows outside in my garden in a slightly damp shady border which seem to be the ideal conditions for this family.

Many thanks Gordon for introducing us to a new attractive plant to coincide with the Olympics Games coming from Tokyo this year.

Joan McCaughey