

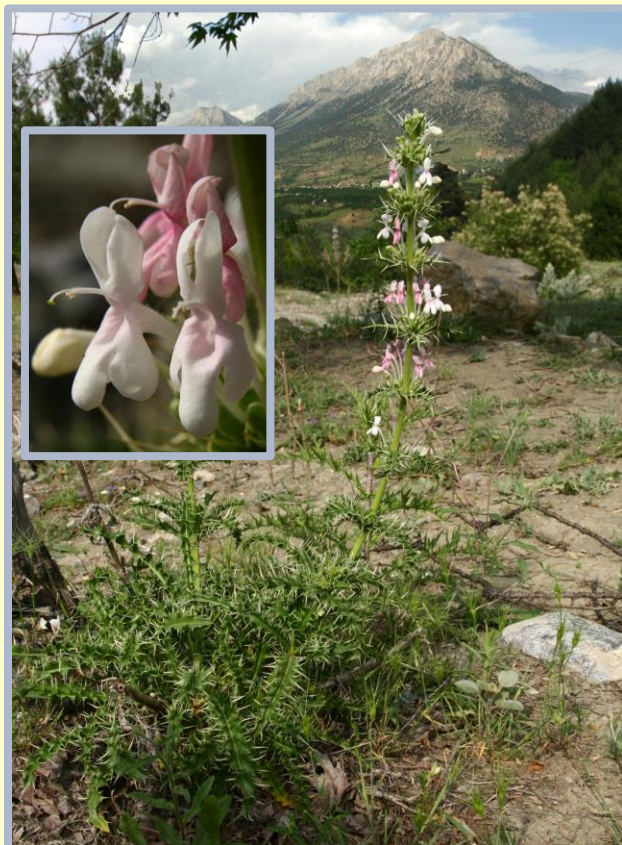


Plant of the Month, July 2021

Morina longifolia – by Joan McCaughey

Pictured are *Morina persica* (R) , in the Ala Dag mountains in Turkey, and *Morina longifolia* (below) in the garden at home.

I first came across *Morina persica* in 2007 near the Cilician Gates, the narrow mountain pass at 1000m that separates the Anatolian Plateau from the Cilician plains. (Alexander the Great went this way in 333BCE.)



Whether it was the combination of a thistle like plant with pale pink delicate flowers or the exotic location, the plant impressed me. *Morina longifolia*, a native of the Himalayas, is similar in appearance and has been growing quite happily in our garden for at least 8 years. I can't remember whether it was grown from seed or bought but it has great staying power, producing one or two seedlings but never becoming a nuisance. With its bright evergreen prickly foliage it is perhaps more an interesting plant but one I enjoy having in the garden.