



Plant of the Month, July 2020

Ypsilandra thibetica – by David Ledsham

Here is a plant which dares to flower in the darkest months of the year and could lend a little bit of variety to our seasonal displays of Snowdrops, Aconites and Hellebores.

It happens to be a native of the open woodland slopes of parts of Tibet and Yunnan Province and consequently is well adapted to the rigours of the Chinese winter.

Each year in February or early March it produces racemes of small white flowers from rosettes of evergreen, straplike leaves, with each flower bearing protruding blue anthers,



which adds to the attractiveness of the overall plant when viewed at close quarters. As the plant develops, the flower stems gradually lengthen and the calyces of each flower turn a subtle shade of salmon pink and then

persist for the remainder of the season. When not in flower the dormant plant superficially resembles our native Great Woodrush (*Luzula sylvatica*), and has the same rhizomatous growth habit which makes the process of dividing and transplanting a very simple matter.

The only disadvantage that this plant seems to have is that it remains difficult to obtain commercially.

Nevertheless, for winter interest and impact it is worth looking out for.