Exploring Bulbocodiums

The Most Diverse Section

OUTLINE

- THE PRESENT
  - SEASON
  - DISTRIBUTION
  - PLOIDY
  - SIZE and POISE
  - COLOR
  - FORM
- THE FUTURE

SEASON

AUTUMN

The flowering time of a particular clone may vary from mid autumn to late winter. This may be because autumn flowering bulbocodiums need more moisture to flower than other autumn daffodils.

04/02B

SEASON
WINTER

N. *cantabricus*

In climates where foliage cannot survive the winter it may nevertheless be possible to warm store autumn and winter varieties and plant them in late winter.

N. *bulbocodium* ssp. bulbocodium var. *serotinus* is one of the latest of daffodils.

DISTRIBUTION

Latitude:

30-45degrees; Anti-Atlas Mts in Morocco to Southern France

Altitude:

from sea level (N.*b*.subsp. *obesus*)
to 11,500 feet (3,500m) in the High Atlas (N.*b*.var. *nivalis*)

Soils:

acid to alkaline

Moisture:

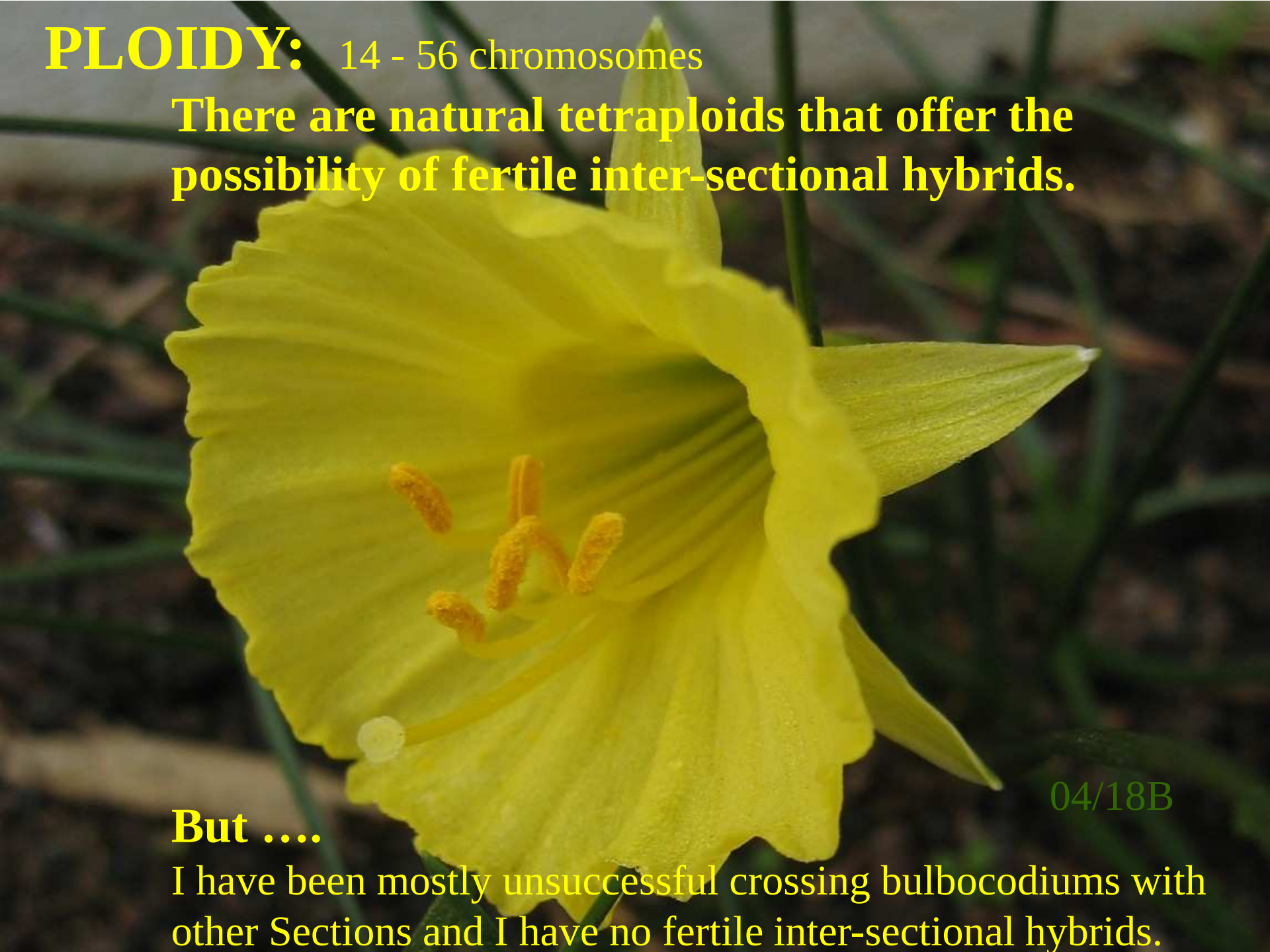
permanently wet to severe summer baking

Which means that: -

- **If you can grow daffodils you can grow bulbocodiums.**

- **Bulbocodiums are the hardiest winter daffodils.**

This is probably because they produce more flower surface to stem and leaf mass ie. they do not need to grow as much to produce flowers. Often winter flowers are very short stemmed.



PLOIDY: 14 - 56 chromosomes

There are natural tetraploids that offer the possibility of fertile inter-sectional hybrids.

04/18B

But ….

I have been mostly unsuccessful crossing bulbocodiums with other Sections and I have no fertile inter-sectional hybrids.

SIZE -large

04/37B

SIZE - small

Bulbocodiums range in size from some of the smallest of daffodils to disproportionately large flowers that are definitely not miniatures.

03/178B

STEM

POISE

COLOR

- Sparkling White to Deep Yellow.

- Green is sometimes featured on the perianth.

- Bicolors and reverse bicolors: - these lack contrast and will lack impact while ever the perianth is narrow.

WHITE TO YELLOW

N. cantabricus


03/100B


03/179B


03/182B


03/91B


01/61B


04/32B


03/200B


03/211B


03/66B


03/123B


03/106B


03/145B

FEATURING GREEN


03/165B


03/198B


03/186B


03/187B


04/56B

BICOLORS


04/47B


03/92B


03/115B

REVERSE BICOLORS


N .luteolentus


03/81B


03/54B


01/9B

FORM - MULTIHEADED

I have yet to see a multi-headed bulbocodium that looked anything but squashed. It may, however, be possible to breed clones whose florets open in sequence.

FORM - PERIANTH

The perianth is generally insignificant in comparison to the corona. Broader perianths can be obtained from N. *cantabricus* and N. *hedreanthus*.


03/84B


03/77B

FORM - CORONA SHORT

FORM - CORONA INCURVED


04/57B


03/214B


03/218B


03/208B


03/189B

FORM - CORONA CONICAL TO PETUNIOIDE


02/7B


03/162B


03/143B


03/29B


04/40B


03/201B


03/162B


03/173B


03/79B


03/188B


03/117B

03/128B


03/151B


03/82B


01/39B


03/73B


03/134B


04/46B


01/35B

FORM - CORONA SPLIT

N. *cantabricus*


N. *cantabricus*


01/5B


03/57B


04/37B


03/210B


01/7B

THE FUTURE

The ideal bulbocodium will:

have a good stem and poise

be tolerant of a variety of soils

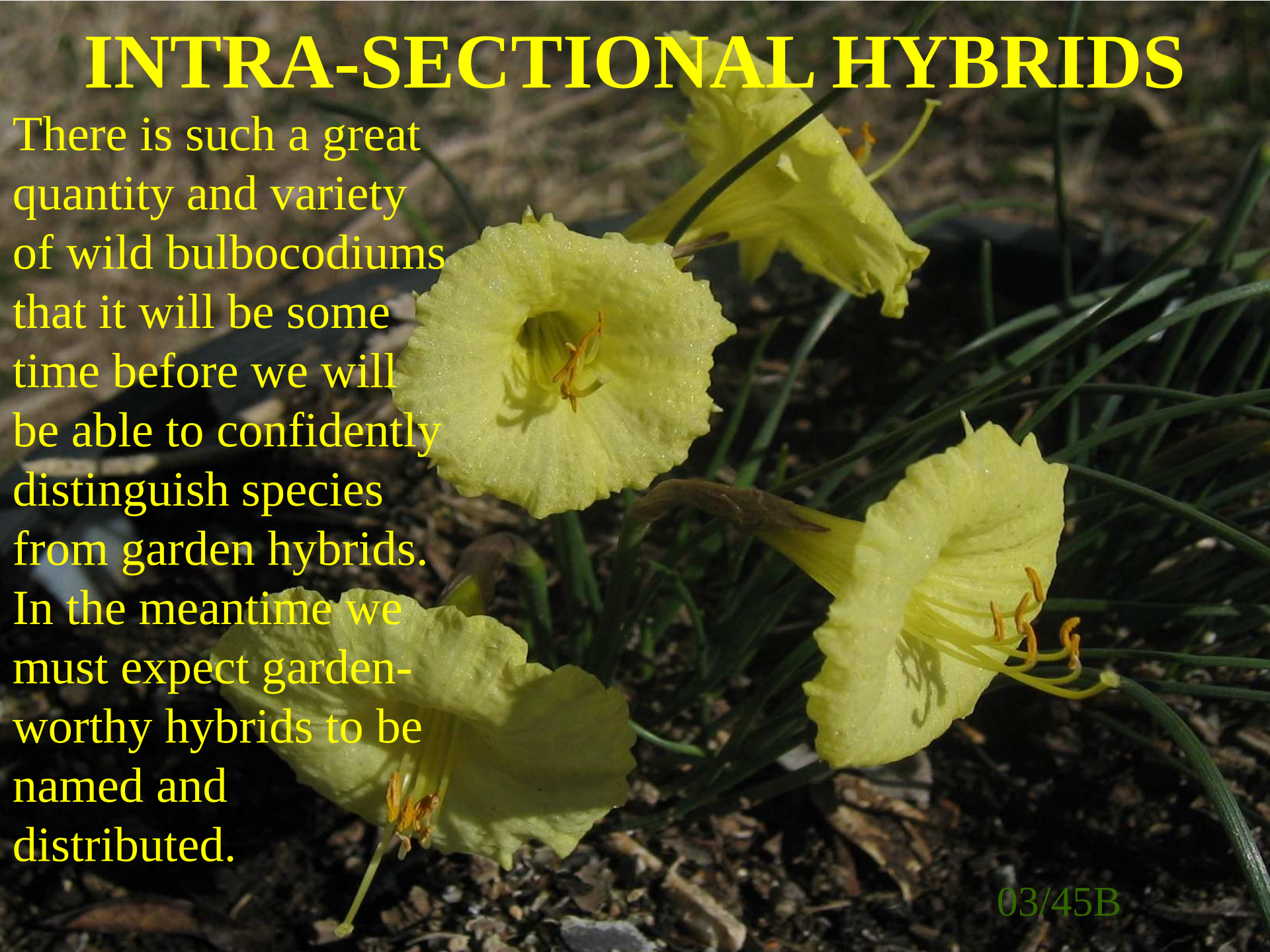
be vigorous and floriforous

be very frost hardy

have a pleasing form and color

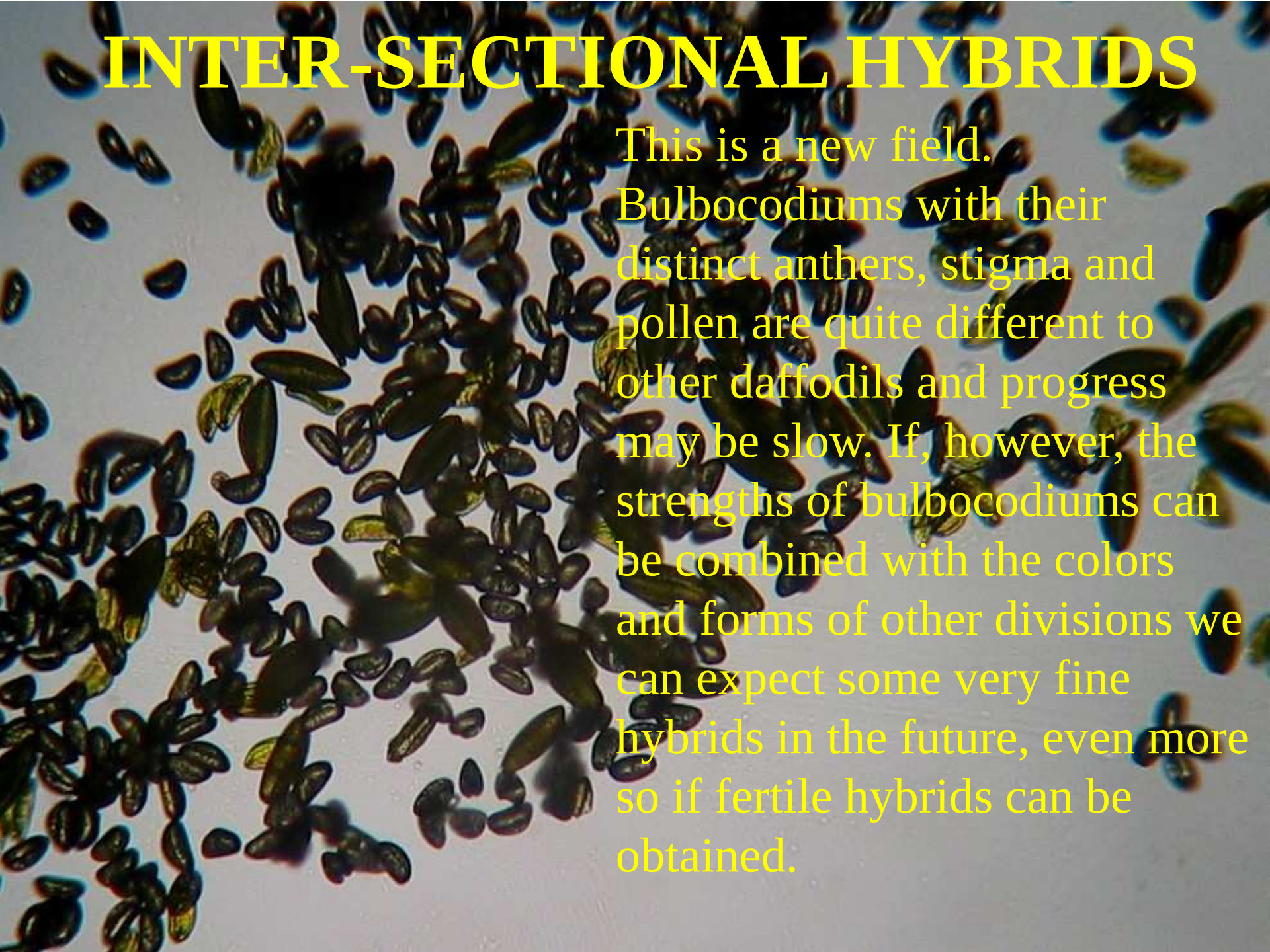
INTRA-SECTIONAL HYBRIDS

There is such a great quantity and variety of wild bulbocodiums that it will be some time before we will be able to confidently distinguish species from garden hybrids. In the meantime we must expect garden-worthy hybrids to be named and distributed.



03/45B

INTER-SECTIONAL HYBRIDS



This is a new field. Bulbocodiums with their distinct anthers, stigma and pollen are quite different to other daffodils and progress may be slow. If, however, the strengths of bulbocodiums can be combined with the colors and forms of other divisions we can expect some very fine hybrids in the future, even more so if fertile hybrids can be obtained.


02/1MB

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