

Magnolia Biondii at Last?

Magnolia biondii Pampanini of Shensi, western Honan, western Hupeh and eastern Szechwan provinces, China, is the only species of section Buergeria not cultivated in western gardens, according to S.A. Spongberg (*J. Arn. Arb.* 57(3):290. 1976). Or is it already grown in western Europe?

Gunter Horstmann, Rotenburgerstrasse, 3043 Schneverdingen, West Germany, included *M. biondii* in a list of magnolias he was growing, and I requested more data. On 12 January, 1977, Mr. Horstmann mailed me six small scions in moss, with the short note: "Enclosed scions of *Magnolia biondii*. (different to *M. salicifolia* by adpressus bud) . . ."

They certainly don't smell like the usual anise-scented *M. salicifolia* wood. I'll graft them and see what grows.

Spongberg, in his earlier "A Tentative Key to the Cultivated Magnolias" (*Arnoldia* 34(1): 1-11. 1974) on p. 7 keyed the separation of *M. biondii* and *M. salicifolia* as follows:

- "33. Leaves coriaceous with hairs along the veins beneath, vegetative buds on mature growth densely silky-sericeous. *M. biondii*.
- "33. Leaves chartaceous, finely appressed-pubescent or with scattered hairs over the entire surface beneath; vegetative buds on mature growth glabrate or finely pubescent. *M. salicifolia*."

J.C. McDaniel

Chinese "Wheels are Still in Motion"

Extracts from two letters:

(1) August E. Kehr to J.C. McDaniel, Jan. 28, 1977

I hope the Magnolia Society has not given up on obtaining seeds from China. You can see from the attached letter that the "Wheels are Still in Motion."

Dr. Ting's visit was seriously hampered by the bad earthquakes. He was in Peking at the time, and his trip plans were concluded by that calamity.

Most Chinese scientists devote fulltime to food crops — no time for "frivolities" such as magnolias and rhododendrons.

(2) Yu-Chen Ting to A.E. Kehr, Jan. 25, 1977

For magnolia collections Dr. S.K. Wu has informed me December 30, 1976 that Professor P.C. Ting of the Agriculture College of Honan, China, would like to help us. He has done research in Systematic Botany, Economic Botany and Plant Distribution. Dr. Wu said that sometime later this year seeds of *Magnolia biondii* would be available.

Professor P.C. Ting's address: Department of Agronomy, Honan Agriculture College, Chengchow, Honan, The People's Republic of China.