

Magnolia Sargentiana Rehder & Wilson

This is a remarkably distinct species well characterized by the shape and pubescence of its leaves and by its peculiarly stout, elongated fruit with congested, beaked carpels. It is undoubtedly most closely related to the Himalayan *M. campbellii*. The flowers are unknown, but Chinese peasants informed me that they appeared before the leaves and were rosy red to rosy pink in color, bowl-shaped, and indicated that they were about eight inches in diameter. From the size of the pedicels and by the scars left by the fallen tepals there is every reason to believe that the flowers were indeed very large. It is a rare tree and known

to me only from the woodlands and deforested areas around and beyond Wa-shan, growing in humus covered loamy soil between elevations of from 5000 to 7000 feet above sea level.

I discovered this Magnolia in June 1903 at Yinkou, a hamlet some six miles west of Wa-shan, but did not collect specimens until 1908. I gathered, in mid-September, ripe seeds (#914, 923, 923a) and forwarded them, packed in earth, to the Arnold Arboretum.⁸ They arrived in a viable state and a good stock of seedlings were raised. These were distributed and many of them sent to M. Leon Chenault who successfully propagated



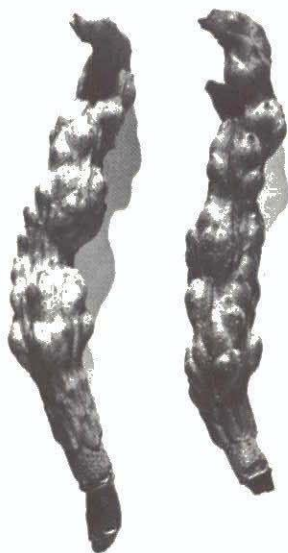
Magnolia sargentiana var. *robusta* at Donald G. Graham Garden, Seattle, Washington.



Magnolia sargentiana var. *robusta* at University of Washington Arboretum.

them. The leaves on the seedling plants were glabrous on the under surface, but this is a common juvenile peculiarity with species that have adult leaves pubescent. In different gardens in the British Isles and in France a number of trees are growing, but as yet none has produced blossoms.⁹

It has proved perfectly hardy and when it flowers it is likely to create a sensation among lovers of these famous plants. At one time I thought 923a,



Fruits of *M. sargentiana* var. *robusta* 10 and 9½ inches long.

with longer leaves and stouter fruits, represented a distinct form, and in conjunction with my colleague, Alfred Rehder, named it var. *robusta*. I have long since abandoned this idea.¹⁰ Although the species is based on my material, there is good reason to believe that it was first found in Mupin in 1869 by Abbe A. David, since a specimen of his with a meager description is named *M. conspicua* var. *emarginata*. A good many of the Wanshan plants grow also in Mupin although neither myself nor my collectors saw this *Magnolia* in that principality.

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8. The lectotype of *Magnolia sargentiana* is Wilson 914(A) collected in fruit in September 1908.

9. Treseder (p. 103) suggested that *Magnolia sargentiana* first flowered at Nymans, Sussex, in 1932.

10. *Magnolia sargentiana* var. *robusta* Rehder & Wilson is accepted by Spongberg and illustrated by Williams (Jour. Roy. Hort. Soc. 91: 285, f. 151. 1961).