

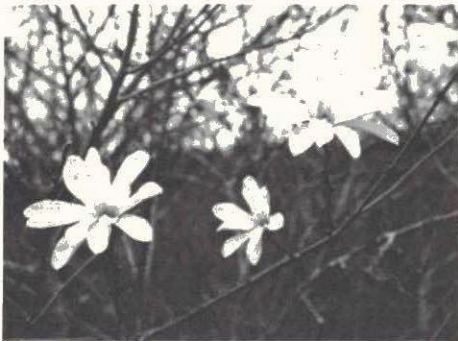
M. Stellata in Japan

by H.J. van de Laar

This article, translated to English and forwarded to MAGNOLIA by member Herman J. Grootendorst, Boskoop, Holland, reports that the author, Harry van de Laar, employed by the Experimental Station at Boskoop, made a trip to Japan from April 3 to May 1, 1979, with his colleague, J.P.F. Alkemade, to collect plants that might be suitable for the Dutch climate. Mr. Grootendorst adds:

"I thought that this on-the-spot report from Japan may be of interest. European authors such as Krussmann, Bean, and Boom do not follow some American botanists who consider M. stellata merely a form or variety of M. kobus. To me, as a nurseryman, these two Magnolias are alike, but are not one species."

On April 14, 1979, we visited the natural habitat of *Magnolia stellata* under the guidance of Mikinori Ogishi, 466-1 Toyosatosamban-cho, Higashi-yodogawa-ku, Osaka-shi, Japan. Mr. Ogishi is now 29 years old and is considered in Japan as one of the country's best young botanists. Here



Magnolia stellata in native habitat in Japan. A close examination of original photograph indicates about 15 tepals in flowers at left and right.



Trunk of M. stellata at Japanese habitat. Long unbranched trunk expanse and 7 meters height described for some specimens would make this somewhat unusual form.

are the notes on *M. stellata* made in Japan:

Grows in a rather limited area north of Nagoya in the so-called Gifu-ken (Gifu Prefecture), 35° 30' N.B./137 O.L. at an altitude of about 450 meters along small rivers in the mountains, but not near the water.

Habit: Most often a more or less straggly, open shrub to a small tree of about 7 meters with a trunk diameter of 10-12 centimeters (see picture).

Flowers: Few (in this respect different from the clones in cultivation), some pure white but mostly light pink or with pinkish streak on the outside tepals; 12 (-25) tepals.

According to Mr. Ogishi, the Gifu-ken is the only spot in the world where *M. stellata* grows naturally. Very