

Magnolia was fairly common; perhaps 100 trees in all but only about four were in fruit. It was a very handsome, upright, almost fastigiate tree reaching something like 60 feet. The leaves are 12 to 15 inches long by 7 to 8 inches wide, fresh green on the surface and a silvery green beneath. The fruits were thick knobs on quite long stalks. On the ground beneath were scattered the scarlet seeds like beads of coral. Fortunately these showed up remarkably well on the moss and it was fairly easy to gather quite a quantity.

This particular piece of country again had a curious analogy to Sussex for me, and the small meadow where most of the Magnolias grew on the slopes, with its stream running through the middle, its scattered oaks and clumps of fern, could have been the approach to a woodland garden in that part of England.

Many other interesting plants grew here, a *Gaultheria*, a number of flowering shrubs, a small *Crataegus*-like plant, *Xylosma flexuosa* with branches wreathed in translucent scarlet berries. We only saw one pine here: a particularly fine specimen of *Pinus pseudo-strobus*.

This particular area of country is relatively unexplored botanically and it is possible there may be other colonies of the Magnolia hidden away.

A plant of *Magnolia dealbata* had already been sent to Kew Gardens by Graham Pattison the year before. Seed from this collecting was distributed to a number of people in the British Isles, to the University of British Columbia and to the Arboretum of Les Barres in France.

Today, May 15, 1984, the first seeds are beginning to germinate here. While I fear this Magnolia is very unlikely to be hardy in North Yorkshire, I hope to distribute it to Cornish and Irish gardens and to gardens in the south of France and Italy, where it should have a reasonable chance of thriving.

Magnolia Cylindrica

by Richard Pearson

On May 5 and 6, 1984, I was fortunate to hike through the Huang Shan mountains of Anhui Province, south of the Yangtze River in China. These mountains are an isolated group of jagged, scenic peaks, the highest of which are over 1800 meters. Their location is 30° 1" north latitude and 118° 1" east longitude. They are famous for their cloudy, misty scenery and luxuriant vegetation, the average temperature being about 17.7° C. in July and August and -3.2° C. in January.

In the area surrounding the Beihai Pavilion, reached by a half-day hike up thousands of stone steps leading from the bus terminus, *Magnolia denudata* and *Magnolia cylindrica* could be seen in full flower. The guide book for the mountains also shows *Magnolia sieboldii*. These magnolias appeared to be in relatively flat areas of rich humus. Other famous plants from these mountains include *Rhododendron anhweiense*, which was found in the same general location as the Magnolias but generally in more exposed conditions.

Charles Tubesing noted that it is particularly interesting to find *Magnolia cylindrica* in the wild. According to him it is noted for its elongated fruits. The leaves also have a whitish cast and light colored veins.



Magnolia cylindrica in wild.