

eastern states, this is a broad, round-topped, much branched shrub some 6 to 10 feet high. Every branch terminates in a long, narrow, erect spike of small, white flowers in which the out-thrust stamens with pink anthers are conspicuous. This is an old plant worthy of greater attention than is now bestowed upon it. It requires a good soil and a moist situation, and is splendidly suited for massing on the edge of woods. It suckers freely and established clumps generally blossom in two tiers. A good example of this American plant may be seen on the edge of the Oak woods flanking the Buckeye collection on the right of Meadow Road.

**Clethra alnifolia**, the Pepperbush, is one of the most common as well as the most sweetly scented of native shrubs. Abundant in swamps, woodlands, and moist places from Maine to Florida, its blossoms fill the air with fragrance in late July and August. Unfortunately the leaves are too often disfigured by attacks of red spider, but this year the bushes in the Arboretum are clean and healthy. A second species, known as *C. tomentosa*, blooms later. Hailing from North Carolina and Florida this is quite hardy in the Arboretum and may be distinguished from the common Pepperbush by a covering of white hairs on the lower surface of the leaves. Another American species is *C. acuminata*, native of the southern Appalachian Mountains. This is not so attractive in blossom as the species already mentioned, but its polished cinnamon-brown stems make it singularly attractive in the winter season. The only other species grown in the Arboretum is the Japanese *C. barbinervis*. This has spreading inflorescences of pure white nodding flowers and is the first of the Pepperbushes to blossom. Widespread in Japan, in the Nikko region and elsewhere, it is often a bushy tree 30 feet tall. It is the handsomest of the Clethras hardy in New England.

**Acanthopanax ricinifolius** is one of the noblest trees of the cool, temperate regions. It occurs wild, scattered through moist forests from the extreme south to the limits of northern Japan, but is most abundant in Hokkaido, where it grows to a large size and specimens 80 feet tall with a trunk from 15 to 20 feet in girth are not rare. In Korea and central and western China it is also a valuable timber tree. In old trees the bark is gray and deeply furrowed, the branches thick and spreading to form a flattened or rounded crown. In young trees the branches are erect-spreading and both they and the trunk are armed with short, scattered, stout spines. The dark green leaves on long stalks are very like those of the Castor-oil plant (*Ricinus*), hence the specific name. Each branchlet terminates in a broad, flat compound cluster of white flowers which are rapidly followed by small, jet-black fruits. The large and handsome palmate leaves give this tree a tropical appearance, yet it is perfectly hardy and quick-growing and thrives in ordinary garden soil but prefers a moist situation. So far as is known it is not attacked by any insect or disease. A fine specimen about to burst into blossom may be seen by the pond near the Forsythias. E. H. W.

These Bulletins will now be discontinued until October.



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1927. "Acanthopanax ricinifolius." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 1(16), 64–64.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321883>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216960>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321883>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321883>

#### **Holding Institution**

Harvard University Botany Libraries

#### **Sponsored by**

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.