

Chinese species of Camellia

There are several species of Camellia native to extreme western and southwestern Yunnan. Although these species have not been recorded from adjacent areas of Burma, Thailand and Laos, it is highly likely that their range actually extends over and into these border regions from the near-contiguous western and southwestern distribution recorded within Yunnan. Should these species remain unavailable from within Burma, Thailand and Laos, perhaps arrangements can be made by local botanists of these areas for securing these species through Prof. H.T. Tsai or other staff members of the Botanical Institute, Kunming, Yunnan. This indirect method of obtaining Chinese species should be successful with the necessary cooperation and assistance from botanists in Burma or Thailand.

These species are:

Camellia forrestii - (Camellia liuii, Camellia polygama, Thea forestii, Thea polygama) This species is known to occur at least as far southwest in Yunnan as the mountains west of Szemao.

Camellia henryana - (Thea henryana) This species is known to occur at least as far southwest in Yunnan as the region between Szemao and Pohai.

Camellia mairei - (Camellia lapidea, Thea mairei) This species is known to occur at least as far southwest in Yunnan as the mountains west of Szemao.

Camellia pachyandra - (no synonyms) This species is known to occur at least as far southwest in Yunnan as Tsangyuan, almost on the Burma border.

Camellia yunnanensis - (Thea yunnanensis) This species is known to occur at least as far southwest in Yunnan as the Szemao, Chenkang and Tengchung areas.

Camellia henryana and C. yunnanensis are the two species most vital in importance for introduction. These species would provide material of great value.

Japanese species and cultivars of Camellia

In or about 1941 a nursery catalogue of camellias was published by K. Wada, Hakoneya Nurseries, Numazu-shi, Japan, that contained several items of great interest for introduction. These desiderata are:

Camellia haematodes - "New name given by me for identification to a distinct species, which I suppose to have come from China. The leaves are small, oblong, acute at both ends and more like C. sasanqua. The flowers are not large, 2 inches across, consisted of from 5-6 broad petals, which are intense blood crimson, much waxy and rather transparent...."

Camellia haematodes flore pleno - "Large semi-double form of the above...."

Camellia haematodes 'Himegozen' - ".... The flowers are intense transparent blood crimson filled to the brim with a disk of white petaloid anthers...."

Camellia oleifolia - "Large white pink-flushed fragrant flowers in late autumn." The true C. oleifera has pure white flowers; it would be most interesting to know what this particular item may actually be.

Note → Camellia species "China" - "A distinct species with broad leaves showing strong reticulation like C. reticulata, white gardenia-shaped fragrant flowers in autumn." This description fits exactly that of the otherwise unavailable C. yunnanensis from China; it is of utmost importance that material of this species from Wada be secured and introduced!

Other camellia materials of interest listed in this catalogue that should be introduced include the following: Hatsu-kari (a variety of C. wabisuke yet to be introduced); Kamakura-shibori and Kyo-nishiki (varieties of C. vernalis yet to be introduced); Crimson King, Kara-goromo, Sandanka and Tachi-kan-tsubaki (varieties of C. heimalis yet to be introduced); and other winter-flowering varieties of what he lists as C. sasanqua, Date-nishiki, Shokko-nishiki, Shoku-no-nishiki, and Yamato-nishiki. . .



Parks, Clifford R. and Griffiths, Austin. 1964. "Enumeration of Chinese and Japanese Camellia desiderata." *LASCA miscellanea* 7, 1-2.

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