Populus tomentosa, is a common tree in temple gardens in Peking, in which it grows to a very large size, and is one of the handsomest, perhaps the handsomest of all Poplar-trees. The peculiarity of this tree is that the leaves of young plants and of vigorous shoots are thickly covered below with a coat of white felt which is not found on the leaves of older trees. When it was first discovered it was believed on this account to be the Silver Poplar of Europe, and it was not until the mature leaves were seen by botanists that it was found to be a distinct species. As it grows in Peking *Populus tomentosa* is a tree fully eighty feet high with a tall massive trunk covered with dark, deeply furrowed bark, and a head of erect and spreading branches. The leaves are thicker than those of other Poplars, five or six inches long and four or five inches broad, dark and lustrous above and pale below, and are divided on the margins into broad rounded teeth; they hang on long flattened stalks and, fluttering in the slightest breeze, make, as the blades come together, a noise like drops of rain in a heavy shower falling on a tin roof. Mr. S. Wells Williams, the distinguished Chinese scholar, noted on a specimen of a few leaves of this tree in the Gray Herbarium, that for this reason it is sometimes called in China "the rain tree." *Populus tomentosa* is a hardy tree in the Arboretum where it is growing at the rate of four or five feet a year, and there seems no reason why it should not grow to a large size here. Unfortunately it is one of the few Poplars which cannot be propagated by cuttings and can only be increased by grafting. It is probable, therefore, that it will never become a popular tree in this country unless a cheaper method of increasing it can be found. The third of these Poplars,

Populus Simonii, is a smaller tree, with pale bark, small, slightly and gracefully drooping branches and small pale green leaves pointed at the ends and hanging on slender stalks. This appears to be the commonest of the Poplars of northeastern continental Asia; it is found from the valley of the Amoor River to China, where it is common in the north but exceedingly rare in the western provinces. This is a small, perfectly hardy tree which should be popular in the colder parts of the United States and Canada. Young plants are sometimes fastigiate in habit, with erect branches and smaller leaves, but this habit seems to disappear as the trees grow older.

Rosa caudata. This is a Rose discovered by Wilson in western China. It is one of the Cinnamomae section of the genus, and is a tall vigorous shrub with stout arching stems covered not very thickly with stout spines, dark green foliage, and flowers about two inches in diameter, in wide, sometimes twenty-five-flowered clusters. The beauty of the flowers is increased by the white marking at the base of the pure pink petals. The fruit is orange-red, an inch long, gradually contracted above into a narrow neck crowned by the much enlarged calyxlobes. This handsome Rose is flowering now for the third year in the Arboretum; it is perfectly hardy and an excellent addition to the Roses of its class. It can be seen in bloom now in the Shrub Collection and with the other Roses in the special Chinese collection on Bussey Hill.

Rosa setipoda. This is another member of the Cinnamomae, differing chiefly from *R. caudata* in the more numerous spines on the stems,

1915. "Populus tomentosa." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 1(11), 42-42. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320382>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/226132>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320382>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/320382>

Holding Institution

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Sponsored by

IMLS LG-70-15-0138-15

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

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>.