

# New Species of Rosa

By W. Dallimore



IN COMMON with many other genera, as the result of explorations in China and other countries, the genus *Rosa* has received numerous additions during the last fifteen or twenty years, but it is possible that these new Roses have attracted attention more slowly than other shrubs by reason of the fact that the several types of Garden Roses very largely supplant the species in the estimation of the general Rose-growing fraternity.

The species of *Rosa*, however, have quite as great claims upon our attention as other kinds of shrubs, for they are available for the same purposes, and are no more difficult to manage. Although usually disregarded in shrubbery planting, many species of *Rosa* are well suited for this purpose, for not only are they beautiful when in flower, but many of them bear exceedingly attractive fruit. There are also places in the Rose Garden where certain species can be planted with advantage, for it is difficult to imagine a more lovely effect than that produced by a well grown and well flowered example of *R. moschata* clambering over an old holly, or a mass of *R. lutea*, *R. spinosissima* or *R. rugosa* in a suitable position. Moreover, many of the species are excellent as specimen bushes or for arranging as informal groups in the wilder parts of the garden. With this in view the following notes have been prepared for the purpose of directing attention to a few of the more promising of the new kinds.

*R. GIRALDII* is a Chinese species which was introduced into this country from the Arnold Arboretum about 1908. Of vigorous habit, it is attractive by reason of its rosy red, white centred flowers, which are as much as  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches across, borne in



large, loose inflorescences, and by its masses of oblong scarlet fruits which hang for a considerable time during late summer and early autumn. The young shoots are reddish and thickly clothed with prickles.

R. HUGONIS was introduced in 1899, seeds being sent to Kew in that year by Father Hugh Scallan from Western China. It is a very charming plant, for it has a free and graceful habit, and



ROSA MOSCHATA

bears a profusion of bright yellow flowers about 2 inches across in April and early May. These are single flowers terminating short axillary shoots which spring from the branches of the previous year. Growing about 8 feet high, it produces rather small leaves, which average about 3 inches in length and are made up of from five to eleven leaflets. Two forms appear to be in cultivation, one of rather denser habit and less free in flowering than the other.



*R. MOYESII*. This is one of the most distinct of Messrs. Veitch's introductions from Western China. Seeds were sent to Messrs. Veitch by Mr. Wilson in 1903 and flowering plants were exhibited five years later. In a state of nature it is found growing from 5 to 10 feet in height, and it grows fairly strongly here. Its chief attractions are its deep terra-cotta red flowers, which are 2 inches to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches across, and its red fruits. The leaves grow 6 inches long and the leaflets vary in number from seven to thirteen. Seeing that it grows naturally up to an elevation of 9,000 feet it ought to thrive throughout the British Isles.

*R. NIPPONENSIS* was introduced from Japan about twenty years ago. Forming a bush from 4 feet to 7 feet high, it is chiefly remarkable for its solitary red flowers, which are from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches across, and for its rich red fruits, each one being about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in length.

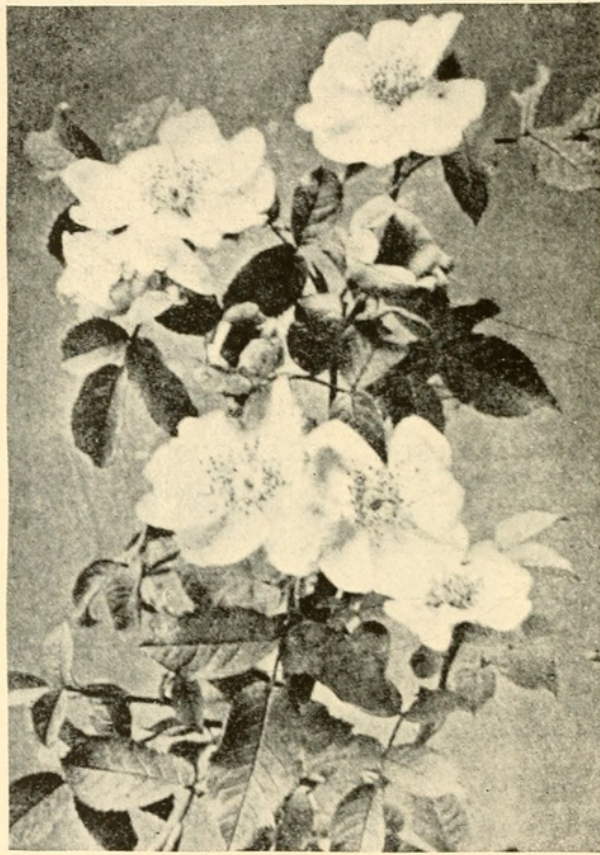
*R. OMEIENSIS*. This is another of Wilson's introductions, seeds being sent to Messrs. Veitch from China in 1901. The specific name is taken from Mount Omi in Szechuen, the place where the species was originally discovered by the Rev. E. Faber. It is a strong growing bush 10 feet or more high, with rather small leaves, the largest being little more than 4 inches long, but made up of many leaflets, sometimes as many as 19, but usually less than 13. The solitary flowers are white with four petals, and usually well under 2 inches in diameter. The fruit is red when ripe, with yellowish stalks. It is allied to *R. sericea*, and is figured in the *Botanical Magazine*, t. 8471.

*R. SERICEA* VAR. *PTERACANTHA*. Although *R. sericea* is an old and well known species, several distinct forms have been introduced from China within recent years. Of these the variety *pteracantha*, which was made known to European gardens some ten or twelve years ago through the agency of M. Vilmorin, is the most distinct. It bears the familiar cream coloured four-petaled flowers of the type, with the same red or



orange-red fruit, but differs from the type in the large bright red fleshy, almost transparent spines which clothe the young shoots. The colour of these fades towards the end of summer, and in year old branches has turned to a greyish brown, while the texture has become woody. The more luscious the growth the better are the spines.

R. SERTATA. In 1907 seeds of this species were sent home by Mr. Wilson from Central China, and plants flowered some

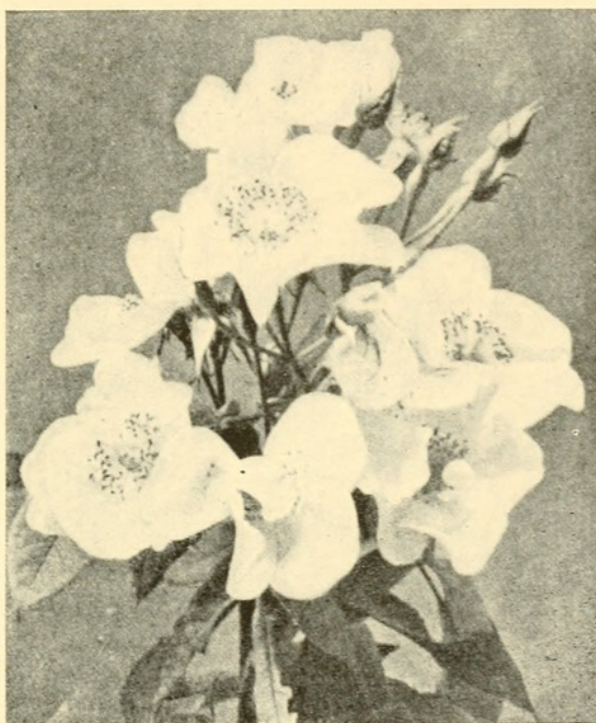


ROSA TOMENTOSA

three years later. It is of moderate growth, mature bushes being about 5 feet or 6 feet high, and of graceful outline. The flowers are borne a few together, or solitary, on short twigs from axillary buds. They are purplish-rose in colour and measure up to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches across. The fruits are deep red and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long. It promises to be a very useful kind. A figure of it is given in the *Botanical Magazine*, t. 8473.



*R. SETIPODA*. This plant grows 8 feet or 10 feet high under cultivation, and produces rather large leaves as much as 7 inches long. The flowers are purplish-rose in colour, upwards of 2 inches across, and are borne in terminal clusters. The fruits are about an inch long and bright red in colour. It bears some resemblance to the Himalayan and Chinese Rose, *R. macrophylla*, and is a native of Hupeh, in China. Introduced by Messrs. Veitch, it first flowered in their Coombe Wood Nursery in 1909. In upland thickets in Western Hupeh it is said sometimes to grow 20 feet high.



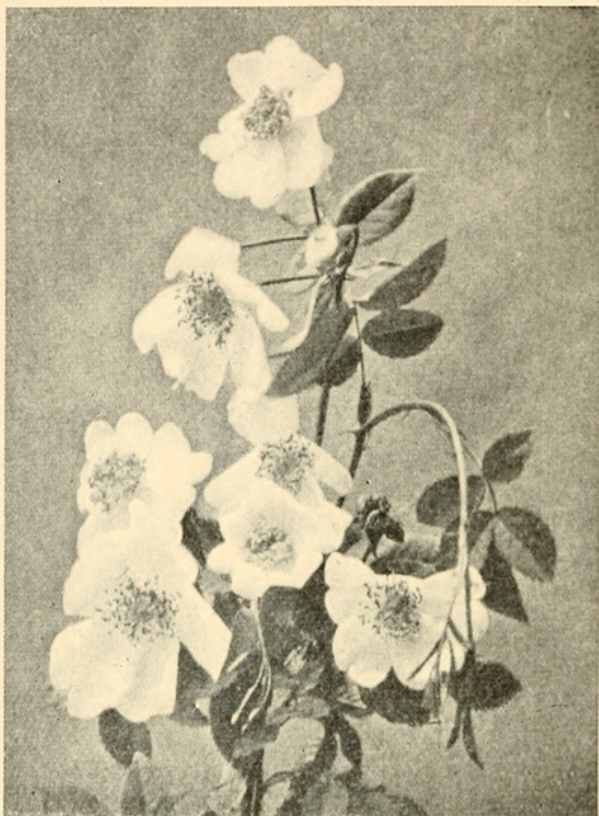
ROSA DUPONTII

*R. SOULIEANA*. M. Maurice de Vilmorin introduced this Chinese species to cultivation rather more than twenty years ago. It is a very strong growing plant of the *R. moschata* type, attaining more than 12 feet in height, with a dense habit, intensely spiny shoots, and rather glaucous leaves, which are 3 inches or 4 inches long. The creamy white flowers each about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, are borne in large clusters in July, and



are succeeded by orange coloured fruits. It is an excellent kind for the wild garden.

*R. WILLMOTTIAE*. This promises to be a useful shrub, and is rather near *R. sertata* in appearance, but smaller in all its parts, growing 8 feet or 10 feet high. It has a graceful habit, with



ROSA ARVENSIS

greyish branches, small leaves and solitary purplish-rose flowers, which may attain  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches across. The roundish fruits are red in colour. It is a native of Western China, and was introduced by Messrs. Veitch from seeds which were collected in the Nim Valley at between 7,500 and 9,500 feet elevation.



Dallimore, William. 1917. "New Species of Rosa." *Journal of the International Garden Club* 1(1), 213-218.

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