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ABSTRACTS OF POSTER EXHIBITS

A NEW INFRAGENERIC CLASSIFICATION AND PHYLOGENETIC TRENDS IN THE GENUS RHODODENDRON

W. SPETHMANN

The exhibit presents a new infrageneric classification of the genus, and some indication of phylogenetic trends in various characters. The new classification is based on morphological, anatomical and chemical characters, and all of these are used in making various phylogenetic deductions. The implications of both the new classification and phylogenetic speculations for taxonomists and gardeners is also briefly considered.

EDINBURGH'S VIREYAS—VIREYA RHODODENDRONS CULTIVATED AT THE RBG EDINBURGH

G. C. G. ARGENT & E. H. HAMLET

VICTORIAN INTRODUCTIONS

Rhododendron javanicum (Bl.) Benn., the earliest Vireya to be grown in Edinburgh, was successfully cultivated towards the end of the Victorian era together with several of the hybrids raised by Messrs Veitch & Sons of London. All these very early accessions came via England and were not imported direct from the wild.

EARLY DISCOVERIES MOSTLY FROM NEW GUINEA IN THE 1950's

This period saw a substantial number of new introductions coming direct to Edinburgh from collectors such as Mr J. S. Womersley, Capt. C. R. Stonor, the Rev. N. E. G. Cruttwell and Dr W. Meijer with additional material being forwarded by Prof. H. Sleumer in Leiden (The Netherlands) as he was sent material whilst revising Vireya Rhododendrons for Flora Malesiana.

Notable introductions at this time were *R. herzogii* Warb., *R. inconspicuum* J. J. Smith, *R. leptanthum* F.v M., *R. macgregoriae* F.v M. and *R. aequabile* J. J. Smith but the total number of Vireyas grown remained small, probably no more than a dozen species.

SE ASIAN EXPEDITIONS OF B. L. BURTT & P. J. B. WOODS IN THE 1960s

In 1962 Mr Burtt and Mr Woods first collected in Sarawak. This resulted in the introduction of *R. intranervatum* Sleum. which is now grown world-wide in Vireya collections. Mr Woods went on to New Guinea sending out several rhododendron species including *R. aurigeranum* Sleum., *R. herzogii* and *R. leptanthum*.

In 1967 Mr Burtt with a garden supervisor (Mr A. Martin) again collected in Sarawak sending back several exciting species from Gunong Murud including *R. stenophyllum* Hook. f. ex Stapf, *R. yongii* Argent, *R. burttii* Woods and *R. micromalayanum* Sleum.

Mr Woods returned to SE Asia in 1968 with Mr Michael Black, a private collector, visiting the Malay Peninsula, Java and New Guinea and sent back over twenty different Vireya species which were successfully cultivated, many for the first time. These collections combined with the previous collections and further arrivals from: the Botanic Gardens, Lae; the Strybing Arboretum, California; members of the Australian Rhododendron Society and the gardens at Boskoop in the Netherlands gave Edinburgh a really notable collection of *Rhododendron* sect. *Vireya*.

RECENT EXPEDITIONS

The RBG Edinburgh's participation in five recent expeditions to New Guinea and Borneo resulted in the direct introduction of twenty more new species to cultivation and numerous aquisitions of duplicate accessions. Added to the previous holdings and with significant introductions by exchange, and a policy of encouraging selective private collectors to collect on behalf of the Royal Botanic Garden, the collection now stands at 97 different species (see Appendix I) or about one third of the genus. This is actively being used as both a research and display collection and has shown particular usefulness in such morphological studies as a survey of scale types using a scanning electron microscope.

APPENDIX I

VIREYA RHODODENDRONS IN CULTIVATION IN EDINBURGH MAY 1982

abietifolium Sleum.
acuminatum Hook. f.
aequabile J. J. Smith
alticolum Sleum.
anagalliflorum Wernh.
armitii F. M. Bailey
aurigeranum Sleum.
bagobonum Copel. f.
beyerinckianum Koord.
borneense (J. J. Smith) Argent, Lamb & Phillipps
brookeanum Low ex Lindl.
bryophilum Sleum.
burttii Woods
buxifolium Low ex Hook. f.
carrii Sleum.
carringtoniae F.v M.
chamaepitys Sleum.
christi Foerster
christianae Sleum.
commonae Foerster
crassifolium Stapf
cruttwellii Sleum.
culminicolum F.v M.
cuneifolium Stapf
dielsianum Schltr.
durionifolium Becc.
ericoides Low ex Hook. f.
exuberans (Sleum.) Argent
gardenia Schltr.
gaultheriifolium J. J. Smith
goodenoughii Sleum.
gracilentum F.v M.
herzogii Warb.
himantodes Sleum.
hooglandii Sleum.
hyacinthosmum Sleum.
inconspicuum J. J. Smith
intranervatum Sleum.
jasminiflorum Hook.
javanicum (Bl.) Benn.
keditii Sleum.
konori Becc.
laetum J. J. Smith
lanceolatum Ridl.
leptanthum F.v M.
leucogigas Sleum.
lindaueanum Koord.
lineare Merr.
lochae F.v M.
longiflorum Lindl.
lowii Hook. f.
macgregoriae F.v M.
maius (J. J. Smith) Sleum.
malayanum Jack
maxwellii Gibbs
meijeri Argent, Lamb & Phillipps
micromalayanum Sleum.
multicolor Miq.
multinervium Sleum.
nervulosum Sleum.
nieuwenhuisii J. J. Smith
orbiculatum Ridl.
pauciflorum K. & G.
phaeochitum F.v M.
phaeopeplum Sleum.
planecostatum Sleum.
pneumonanthum Sleum.
polyanthemum Sleum.
praetervisum Sleum.
rarum Schltr.
retivenium Sleum.
retusum (Bl.) Benn.
rhodoleucum Sleum.
robinsonii Ridl.
rubellum Sleum.
rubineiflorum Craven
rugosum Low ex Hook. f.
salicifolium Becc.
scabridibracteum Sleum.
schoddei Sleum.
searleanum Sleum.
sessilifolium J. J. Smith
sheilae Sleum.
solitarium Sleum.
stapfianum Hemsl. ex Prain
stenophyllum Hook. f. ex Stapf
suaveolens Sleum.
superbum Sleum.
vaccinioides Hook. f.
vandeursenii Sleum.
verticillatum Low ex Lind.
vitis-idaea Sleum.
womersleyi Sleum.
wrightianum Koord.
yelliotii Warb.
yongii Argent
zoelleri Warb.