

## *Syringa pinetorum* W.W. Smith is in cultivation

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In an earlier issue of *Hanburyana*, Freek Vrugtman (2009) drew attention to the fact that material under this name in collections and nurseries was in fact *S. yunnanensis* and that the true plant had not yet been successfully introduced to cultivation. We are happy to report that at least one plant of this species is in cultivation in the United Kingdom, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Wakehurst Place in Sussex. This was derived from seed collected by us in September 1987 from the edge of pine woodland beside the river in the Be Shui valley, along the eastern flank of the Yulong Shan range, north of Lijiang, China.<sup>1</sup> This was distributed as B & L 12197 (not 12097 as has sometimes been listed in error) and a voucher for the collection is in the RHS Herbarium at Wisley (WSY). A specimen under this B & L number was confirmed as *S. pinetorum* by Peter Green in June 1990. If any other plants grown from this seed are still in cultivation we would be pleased to know about them: there is a possible unconfirmed candidate at RHS Garden Harlow Carr, but none at RHS Garden Wisley.

The species was first named by W.W. Smith (1916), from material collected by George Forrest (F 12472) at Lijiang in 1914. The taxonomy of the group to which *S. pinetorum* belongs has recently been revised by J. Y. Chen *et al.* (2008). As a result of studying variation, especially in leaf shape and indumentum, in several wild populations in China, they concluded that five previously described species should be treated as a single taxon, for which they use the name *S. pinetorum*. Thus they treat *S. wardii* W. W. Sm., *S. mairei* (H. Lév.) Rehd., *S. rugulosa* McKelvey and *S. chuanxiensis* S. Z. Qu & X. L. Chen as synonyms of *S. pinetorum*. As now constituted *S. pinetorum* occurs in thickets, forests and forest margins through western Sichuan, south-east Xijiang and north-west Yunnan.

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<sup>1</sup> Now often referred to as the Baishui River.

## REFERENCES

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