Vol. I., No. IV., 1918.

The Rhododendron Society Notes.

REPRINTED BY
THE PACIFIC RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Acknowledgements

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RHODODENDRON, CAMELLIA
& MAGNOLIA GROUP

A ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GROUP

2017

THE PACIFIC RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

"Dedicated to the Hobbiest and Home Gardeners"

Foreword

The Pacific Rhododendron Society has reprinted the Rhododendron Notes in an effort to further the knowledge of the Genus Rhododendron by those enthusiasts with an avid interest in the history, exploration and biographical sketches contained herein.

The Rhododendron Notes are offered to the end that the reader may more easily understand the progress encouraged by those who contributed the wealth of information contained in these volumes, thereby making clear our understanding of the Genus Rhododendron today.

The Society wishes to gratefully acknowledge the efforts on our behalf by the following persons and organizations: Dr. R. Shaw, Curator and M.V. Mathew, Librarian of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scotland, for providing the missing numbers; Lord Aberconway and John Cowell, Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society, for certain photocopies and other considerations, Sir Giles Loder and Sir Edmund de Rothchild for their esteemed counsel, and to Thomas V. Donnelly our printer.

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The Pacific Rhododendron Society
1976

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The Rhododendron Society Notes.

NOTES

CONTRIBUTED BY

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR

1918

All communications regarding the publications of the Rhododendron Society should be made to Charles Eley, East Bergholt, Suffolk.

Vol. I., No. IV., 1918.

MEMBERS' NOTES FOR THE YEAR 1918.

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THE FORTUNEI GROUP OF RHODODENDRONS.

Of the numerous species of Rhododendron introduced from China in recent times few, if any, promise to be of greater value in gardens generally than those belonging to the group of which R. FORTUNEI (it being the oldest species), may be taken as the type. This group is characterized by large, smooth-textured leaves, fragrant flowers, and a white or rosy-tinted, seven-lobed corolla. I take the species belonging to this group to be :—

R. FORTUNEI
R. HOULSTONII
R. DECORUM
R. DISCOLOR
R. HEMSLEYANUM
R. SEROTINUM
R. VERNICOSUM
R. AURICULATUM

In a broader sense the group might be taken to include R. DAVIDII, R. FARGESII, R. OREODOXA and others, but it is the species clustered round R. Fortunei itself that I am more concerned with now. R. HEMSLEYANUM I do not believe is in cultivation but all the others mentioned, with the possible exception of R. SEROTINUM, are well adapted to the average climate of the British Isles.

R. FORTUNEI, *Lindley.*

This Rhododendron was discovered by Robt. Fortune in the mountains west of Ningpo, in the province of Chekiang, in Eastern China, and introduced about the year 1856. It was named after its discoverer by Lindley (or may be Thos. Moore), in the GARDENERS' CHRONICLE for 1859, p. 868. As it had not then flowered under cultivation the description was very perfunctory, and published chiefly to associate Fortune's name with the plant before it got abroad in gardens. The plants were then growing in the Chiswick nursery of Mr. Glendinning, to whom at that period Fortune appears to have been sending his discoveries. A note from Fortune is appended to the description which reads as follows :—

"When on one of my long journeys in the province of Chekiang, I accidentally met with this fine species amongst the mountains, about 3,000 feet above the level of the sea. The discovery was most unexpected, for although the lower parts of the mountains are covered with the allied genus Azalea, no Rhododendron had been known to exist in this part of China. The specimens I met were of all sizes, from one year's seedlings to full-grown plants, the latter being 10 to 12 feet in height. The large plants had been covered with flower a short time before, and the ground under the branches was now strewed with decayed blossoms, but not in a fit state for examination. I was told on all sides by the natives that the plants were most beautiful objects when in full bloom. When I returned to the same place in the autumn I found an abundance of ripe seed which has vegetated freely in Mr. Glendinning's nursery. The only other species of Rhododendron known in China is R. CHAMPIONAE, *Hooker*, a pretty plant, discovered by the lamented Col. Champion on the Hong Kong hills."

Later in the year (GARDENERS' CHRONICLE, 1859, p. 1019), the following occurs :—

" *Sale of Rhododendron Fortunei, Taxus cuspidata and other Conifers.* These were sold by Mr. Stevens, on Saturday last (December 3rd, 1859), and realized the following prices : R. Fortunei, in lots of six strong plants, 11*s.* to £1 11*s.*, other lots of 10 plants each from 12*s.* to 15*s.* per lot, and smaller plants fetched even less money. The original imported plant from Japan realized £8 10*s.*" (Japan no doubt is in mistake for China.)

Judging by these prices there does not appear, sixty years ago, to have been any great enthusiasm for new species of Rhododendron, although it must be remembered most of them were probably only seedlings two or three years old. If one could see Messrs.* Stevens' sale books of the time it would no doubt be possible to find out to whom the imported plant that fetched £8 10*s.* was sold. It does not appear to have flowered very soon, for in the GARDENERS' CHRONICLE for June 4th, 1864, p. 536, there appeared the following : " We have to thank A. G. for flowers of what *is said* to be Rhododendron Fortunei, and very ugly they are. Can no one favour us with an authentic specimen ? "

The first recorded authentic flowering occurred two years later, May, 1866, in the garden of Mr. Luscombe, at Coombe Royal, Kingsbridge, Devon, when the BOTANICAL MAGAZINE plate was made. It was published later in the same year as tab. 5596. Mr. Luscombe writes in the GARDENERS' CHRONICLE for 1868, p. 1067 : " It may interest your readers to know that this fine Rhododendron is perfectly hardy in South Devon, the plant at Coombe Royal being wholly uninjured by the severe weather of 1866-7."

Mr. Luscombe, as we know, was the first to use R. FORTUNEI for hybridizing, and raised from it the fine R. " LUSCOMBEI," " LUSCOMBEI SPLENDENS," " MRS. THISELTON-DYER," etc.

Some doubt has been expressed as to whether the original R. FORTUNEI of the BOTANICAL MAGAZINE (" Fortune's Fortunei ") is the same as we grow to-day. The characteristic glands on the style, flower-stalk and outside the corolla are not shown in the figure, nor are they mentioned in the text. These, however, are omissions on the part of the artist and author as can be seen by examining the actual specimens from Mr. Luscombe, figured in May, 1866, which are preserved at Kew.

I do not know that seeds of R. FORTUNEI have ever been reintroduced from the actual site where Fortune discovered it. This, the Chekiang habitat of the plant, Tientai Mountain, was visited in 1884, by Mr. Cooper, and in 1878, Charles Maries, at that time in the employ of Messrs. Veitch, found R FORTUNEI in the mountains of Kewkiang, some 200 miles west of the Chekiang site, a locality also visited by Mr. T. L. Bullock in 1892. In 1907, E. H. Wilson found it at Kuling, in the province of Kiangsi, some miles south of Kewkiang. There is no record that either Cooper or Bullock sent home seed. Messrs. Veitch tell us that Maries did, but his as well as the other collectors' dried specimens at Kew are in the flowering state.

* A subsequent enquiry has failed. C.C.E.

There is an old plant at Kew which I believe may belong to Fortune's importation, if not of the first, at least of the second generation. I knew it thirty years ago, and think it was then too large to have been raised from seed sent home by Maries ten years previously. I believe also the fine plant in Noble's old nursery at Sunningdale is of the original importation. But judging by the dried specimens there is no difference between the original plants of Fortune's introduction and those found 200 miles more inland by Maries.

There appears to be an impression that R. FORTUNEI occurs wild in Western China. In Mr. J. C. Williams' list of Rhododendron species at Caerhays, in the last number of the Society's Notes (p. 136), his No. 102 is given as a FORTUNEI of Wilson's introduction. I believe this "Wilson 885" to be DISCOLOR, and venture the opinion that the true R. FORTUNEI has not yet been found anywhere wild except in Eastern China.

R. HEMSLEYANUM, *E. H. Wilson.*

There is really not very much to be said about this species for, so far as I know, it has not been introduced to cultivation, and there is only one specimen in the Herbarium at Kew. It was discovered by Wilson in flower June, 1904, on Mt. Omi, in Szechuan, the plants 20 feet high. It is closely allied in botanical characters to R. FORTUNEI, having the same smooth stamens and glandular ovary and style. It differs, however, in the leaves, which are more like those of R. SEROTINUM, very thick and leathery, 6 to 8 inches long, 3 to 4 inches wide, with two large auricles at the base. The flowers, ten or so in a truss, are white and 3 inches wide, the flowerstalk clothed with stalked glands. Mr. Wilson says he saw it only on Mt. Omi, and that it was rare even there. He describes it as one of the largest and most handsome of the Chinese Rhododendrons.

R. HOULSTONII, *Hemsley et Wilson.*

This Rhododendron was first named and described in the Kew Bulletin for 1910, p. 110. Mr. Wilson evidently altered his mind as to its right to specific rank, for in the PLANTÆ WILSONIANÆ i., p. 541, he, in association with Mr. Rehder, reduced it to a variety of R. FORTUNEI. Nobody has ever been able to define what exactly constitutes a species, and I am afraid no one ever will. It must always remain a matter of opinion or, more likely, of the author's temperament and frame of mind. But R. HOULSTONII seems to me to have a claim to specific rank quite as clear for instance as that of R. DISCOLOR. It differs from R. FORTUNEI in the leaves, which are smaller and more tapered at the base; in the flowers, which have a more bell-shaped corolla and longer stamens; in the flower-stalks, which are covered with much more conspicuous stalked glands; and finally, in the blossoming season, which is at the end of April, or early in May, and therefore about three weeks in advance of R. FORTUNEI.

I have seen R. HOULSTONII only once in bloom—in 1918—and the plant was one at Kew with the Wilson number 648a. The flowers are of a very pleasant soft pink, nearly 3 inches in diameter, and eight or ten in a cluster. On page 166 of the Society's Notes, Mr. Magor alludes to 885 Wilson as "Houlstonii or discolor?" That his plant, which flowered in July, is the latter I feel sure.

One of the Wilson numbers for DISCOLOR is 885, and HOULSTONII flowers two months or so before DISCOLOR.

Wilson found R. HOULSTONII in woods in Western Hupeh.

R. VERNICOSUM, *Franchet.*

[*syn.* R. LUCIDUM, *Franchet*].

Under the name of R. LUCIDUM this plant was originally described by Franchet in the JOURNAL DE BOTANIQUE for 1895, p. 390. Finding afterwards that the name "lucidum" had already been used by Nuttall for another species, he, three years later, changed the name to VERNICOSUM (see JOURN. DE BOT., 1898, p. 258). A plant was obtained for the Kew collection from Messrs. Veitch under Wilson's number 1777, which flowered in early May last year. Messrs. Wilson and Rehder in the PLANTÆ WILSONIANÆ i., p. 541, make it the same as R. DECORUM. This I cannot agree with. In the first place the stamens are glabrous, a character which brings it nearer FORTUNEI than DECORUM; its corolla is more bell-shaped, and its leaves are of a different shape, being proportionately shorter and broader. Forrest collected it in N. W. Yunnan in May, 1906, his specimens being numbered 2190 and 2222. There is a picture of it in the GARDENERS' CHRONICLE for February 19th, 1910, reproduced from a photograph by Forrest, and in the accompanying note we are told that it was then growing and approaching the flowering state in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.

The larger leaves are 4 inches long and 2¼ inches wide, oval, terminated by a mucronate tip and rounded or slightly cordate at the base; the stalk is often over 1 inch long, and considerably longer in proportion to the blade than that of DECORUM. The flowers are in trusses of six to eight, the corolla six or seven-lobed, 2 to 3 inches wide, white to rosy-pink and widely bell-shaped. Ovary, style and flower stalk are glandular. Forrest describes it as a shrub of spreading habit, 10 to 25 feet high. It was first discovered by Soulié, in E. Szechuan, in 1893.

R. DISCOLOR, *Franchet.*

[*syn.* R. KIRKII, *Hort.*].

To those of us who live in the cooler parts of the country, I think R. DISCOLOR will prove to be one of the most useful of all the new species from China. Of the Fortunei group it is in my opinion the finest. First discovered by the French missionary, Farges, in E. Szechuan, it was introduced by Wilson about the beginning of this century, when collecting for Messrs. Veitch. By them it was distributed under the Wilson number 885. It has the largest flowers of all the Fortunei group, and last year I measured some quite 4 inches in diameter. They vary in colour from a shell-pink to quite rosy-pink. Compared with R. FORTUNEI, the plant is more open and tree-like in habit (Wilson found it up to 20 feet high), and its leaves are usually narrowly tapered at the base. In the botanical characters of the flower it does not differ much, having the same glandular ovary and style and the same glabrous stamens; the calyx, however,

is larger and much more distinctly lobed. Still, the most salient characteristic of R. DISCOLOR is its late flowering. It is this, added to its fine flowers and noble trusses, that makes its advent to gardens so interesting and welcome. At Kew it flowers from about midsummer's day to the middle of July. I had a truss from Lamellen, on July 8th, 1917, so it evidently flowers in Cornwall about the same time. Its growth is similarly late in starting. Except for R. AURICULATUM —a Rhododendron by itself as regards lateness of growth and flower—it, R. SEROTINUM and R. MAXIMUM flower habitually later than any others, although the last flowers of some garden varieties coincide with their early ones. The introduction of R. DISCOLOR has given the opportunity to produce a race of hybrids of the Fortunei type later flowering than any we have at present. In fact, the foundations of this race have already been laid.

Under the name of R. KIRKII there is in a few gardens a Rhododendron belonging to the Fortunei group. We have it at Kew, and Mr. Millais mentions it in his book, on page 169, as having flowered in his garden in July, 1915. I do not know how the name originated; I cannot find that one such has ever been published, but I suspect it originated in Messrs. Veitch's nursery at Coombe Wood, probably as a provisional name for a batch then thought to be distinct. Although I have not seen it in flower, I feel certain that it is nothing but R. DISCOLOR. The leaves match those of that species, and it flowered with Mr. Millais in July, which is the season of R. DISCOLOR and not that of R. HOULSTONII, with which he compares it. Moreover, the Wilson numbers given by Mr. Millais, viz., 885 and 885B, are those of R. DISCOLOR.

Several crosses with DISCOLOR as one parent have been made at Kew, chiefly with such garden varieties as "PINK PEARL," "STRATEGIST," "DONCASTER," "MEMOIR," etc. But it has also been hybridised with some species—GRIFFITHIANUM (Aucklandii), MAXIMUM, and OCCIDENTALE, the last of course an Azalea.

R. SEROTINUM, *Hutchinson.*

In 1889, there were received at Kew, from the Jardin des Plantes, at Paris, a few seedlings of Rhododendron under the name of DECORUM. Some were kept under glass and some tried out-of-doors. Under both conditions they showed a strong disinclination to branch, and I remember especially one that grew in the Rhododendron Dell which ultimately became 7 or 8 feet high, but had only some eight or ten growing shoots—a veritable scarecrow of a Rhododendron. To the regret of no one, a storm at last snapped it off. There are still two plants in the Temperate House which show, only not so badly, a similar lanky growth, and make shoots one foot or more in length in a season. One is a fairly presentable shrub, but the other is actually treated as a climber on a pillar and is 12 feet high. In 1905, when I was somewhat younger and more venturesome than I am now, I wrote an article about Chinese Rhododendrons in Robinson's FLORA AND SYLVA. In this article I made some disparaging remarks about R. DECORUM as I then knew it. But afterwards R. DECORUM of Wilson's collecting came into cultivation, and it has now flowered several times. It has proved to be a shrub of sturdy habit and exceedingly attractive in flower. In consequence, I have had rather a bad time about my Flora and Sylva remarks, and expressions

of surprise and reproach have several times been made. The last (and kindest) is in Mr. Millais' great book on Rhododendrons. Yet what I said on the plants which were then purported to be R. DECORUM was strictly true. Fortunately, from my point of view, the old so-called "decorum" of Paris in 1889 proves to be a distinct species which has been named R. SEROTINUM by Mr. Hutchinson, and is to be figured under that name in the BOTANICAL MAGAZINE.

R. SEROTINUM is no doubt closely allied to both DECORUM and FORTUNEI. From the latter it differs by its pubescent stamens; from R. DECORUM it is distinguished by having larger, thicker leaves with an unequally cordate base, and by the corolla having conspicuous stalked glands on the outside. From both species it differs in the gaunt, lanky mode of growth already alluded to, and by the tube of the corolla being spotted and suffused with red inside. It is also distinct in flowering very late in the season, the character on which Mr. Hutchinson's name is based. In the Temperate House at Kew it commences to blossom in July, and last year there were trusses opening in late September, developed of course from flower buds which had formed on the growths of 1917.

The flowers are seven or eight together, each one about 3 inches wide, fragrant, white tinged with rose and spotted in the tube as mentioned above.

R. DECORUM, *Franchet.*

[*syn.* R. SPOONERI, *Hemsley and Wilson*].

David, the French missionary in China, appears to have been the first to discover this fine Rhododendron in the early "eighties" of last century, in Eastern Thibet, at elevations of about 10,000 feet on the mountains, but it was also found about the same time, or soon after, in Yunnan by his fellow-worker, Delavay. As has been shown in the note on R. SEROTINUM, some at any rate of the plants originally raised from seeds sent to Paris by the French missionaries and distributed as DECORUM, are now to be regarded as a distinct species, so that the introduction of all, or nearly all, the plants in cultivation has to be credited to Wilson and Forrest. Wilson sent seeds home to Messrs. Veitch from Yunnan, in 1904-5, and made several other importations during his subsequent journeys. The plants obtained by him and Forrest have proved very attractive to Rhododendron lovers in this country. The flowering season of R. DECORUM seems naturally to be a rather extended one. I have flowering specimens preserved that have been collected during the months of May, June and July. The flowers sometimes open early enough to be caught by frost. They usually measure 2½ to 3 inches across, and I have a few flowers gathered at Caerhays in July, 1911, almost 4 inches wide. The colour varies from almost pure white to a very lovely delicate pink. From R. FORTUNEI this differs botanically in the downy stamens and in the tapered base of the leaf.

R. AURICULATUM, *Hemsley.*

Among all the Rhododendrons introduced from Central and Western China, none stands out with greater distinctness than this. No other cultivated Rhododendron so far as I know habitually starts into growth so late in the

season as it does. It is very curious that a plant from the northern hemisphere should invariably let the spring and even midsummer go by without making the least sign of growth. At Kew it is always mid-July before it commences to move. Once started, however, it completes its growth in very quick time. Its flowering is equally late, and some trusses do not open until August. I have one specimen preserved which was gathered as late as August 24th. The young shoots are furnished with large, often (but not, I think, invariably), crimson scales which soon wither and fall away, but give a brilliant effect while they last. The foliage is large and handsome and is very distinct from that of all the others of this Fortunei group in its hairiness—a character which is especially noticeable on the leafstalk and midrib, and when the leaves are young. The flowers are 3 to 4 inches wide, and so far as I have seen, white, but Wilson describes them also as rosy-red, and they have usually the characteristic seven-lobed corolla of this group, although occasionally it is eight-lobed.

In conversation, Mr. Wilson has told me that although he found it nowhere common in a wild state, its favourite habitat is on the outskirts of woodland where it lives in half shade. I am confident it will do best in this country where it has some similar protection from full sunshine. So far, at Kew, it has flowered only on growths on the lower and shaded part of the plant, but that does not necessarily imply that shade is conducive to flowering.

R. AURICULATUM was discovered by Prof. A. Henry over thirty years ago, but was not introduced until 1901, when Wilson sent seeds, collected in Western Hupeh, to Messrs. Veitch. It occurs as a tree occasionally 20 to 30 feet high.

In 1917, when AURICULATUM was in bloom at Kew, some belated flowers of R. PONTICUM were found with whose pollen it was fertilized. The seedlings raised seem to show that a hybrid has been produced. Such a hybrid, if it combines some of the redundant vigour of PONTICUM with the late flowering of AURICULATUM ought to be valuable. The only other cross we have been able to make has been with SEROTINUM. Attempts with R. (Azalea) OCCIDENTALE have hitherto failed.

February, 1919. W. J. BEAN.

KEY TO THE FORTUNEI GROUP OF RHODODENDRONS.

I. Stamens glabrous.

a. Leaves hairy, especially on petiole and when young. Flowers in late July and August; pedicels hairy .. AURICULATUM.

b. Leaves glabrous, cordate or rounded at base.
Glands on pedicels stalked; leaves very large and leathery, conspicuously auricled at base .. .. HEMSLEYANUM.
Glands on pedicels sometimes absent and often sessile; leaves rounded or slightly cordate at base, corolla glandular outside .. .. FORTUNEI.
Glands always present, sessile; leaves rounded at base; corolla glabrous outside, widely bell-shaped .. VERNICOSUM.

c. Leaves glabrous, cuneate at base.
Calyx distinctly lobed; pedicels quite glabrous; flowers in June and July.. .. .. DISCOLOR.
Calyx obsolete; pedicels hairy-glandular; flowers in May .. .. HOULSTONII.

II. Stamens pubescent or glandular.

Corolla smooth outside; flowers in spring and summer DECORUM.

Corolla glandular-warty outside; leaves thick and leathery; flowers in late summer and autumn .. SEROTINUM.

W. J. BEAN.

February, 1919.

THE CULTIVATION OF RHODODENDRONS AT LEONARDSLEE.

Our Honorary Secretary has asked me to write a few notes on the cultivation of Rhododendrons, I will begin by saying that as all gardens differ as to soil and climate, what I say refers entirely to my own garden, and my methods may not be successful in other places.

This garden, near Horsham, in Sussex, is situated about 275 feet above the sea level. The portion where the Rhododendrons are chiefly planted is a valley about half a mile in width in the widest part, measuring from the top of the ridge to the top of the ridge on the opposite side, and sloping downwards to the South-East. Speaking generally, it is planted with trees of a density which can best be described as "open woodland"; the high ground at the sides being thickly covered for the purpose of shelter. The natural growth is heather, bracken, and birch trees. The average rainfall from 1882 to 1912, was 29·65 inches. Of frost 28 degrees were registered by the exposed thermometer on the 5th of January, 1894, and again on February 7th, 1895, and on February 3rd, 1912, 21 degrees.

On the top of the hill near the house, where I like to keep the choicer species, the soil is stiff and heavy.

Before planting a Rhododendron it is advisable to dig out a hole in the trenched ground much larger than would at first sight appear necessary. The soil is thrown out to the back of the border and the hole filled with a compost of peat, turfy loam and coarse sand. A fork is used to stir it up and to incorporate the mixture thoroughly with the natural soil at the bottom and sides of the hole. The Rhododendron is then planted and made firm. A thick mulching of dead leaves is certainly beneficial as it keeps off the burning sun and parching winds from the roots, besides acting as a protection from frost.

In most books on gardening leaf-mould is recommended; this may be right in many gardens, but we do not succeed with it here. We find that it makes the soil sour and that the plants become sickly when planted in it.

On the other side of the valley the soil is light and sandy, and in summer it becomes dust-dry so that the plants suffer; even heavy and frequent watering seems to make little difference and consequently the Rhododendrons did not thrive. However, these plants are looking very well now; they have been dug round and turfy loam placed next to the roots, and when a plant looked very yellow a light mulching of farm-yard manure has been given, usually with good effect. This shows how gardens differ, for I believe that in Cornwall most growers consider that farm-yard manure is not at all suitable for Rhododendrons.

The larger-leaved kinds such as R. FORTUNEI and R. AUCKLANDII hybrids seem always to be benefited by a mulching of manure, but much more care must

be taken in its use with such kinds as R. THOMSONII and R. CAMPYLOCARPUM, which seem more delicate. Rhododendrons are usually easy to keep in health if looked after and disbudded when this is required. Some kinds, such as R. CAMPYLOCARPUM, may be killed by allowing them to flower year after year without taking off any of the buds; and when once a Rhododendron gets into bad health it is often a difficult matter to coax it back again to a thriving state. Usually the best way is to cut it down and then transplant it to some other position and soil. It is wonderful how vigorously some plants will grow after having been treated in this way. It is to be noted, however, that after being cut down some species of Rhododendrons will not break again, or very weakly. I would not cut down R. THOMSONII, AUCKLANDII, FALCONERI, EXIMIUM, or GRANDE.

Most of my Rhododendrons are grown in the half-shade of trees, and seem to do well.

Some of the smaller sorts—R. FALCONERI, INTRICATUM, RACEMOSUM, SETOSUM, ELAEAGNOIDES, SALIGNUM, CHAMAECISTUS, etc., are growing in my rock garden in fully exposed positions and are doing equally well.

Large-leaved kinds require shelter from wind, otherwise in stormy weather the leaves are apt to get broken or torn off.

Some Rhododendrons, such as AURICULATUM and EXIMIUM, are very late growers, and I try to plant them where they will be shaded from the hot sun, otherwise the tender shoots would very probably be scorched.

The leaves of R. FULGENS are often burnt if exposed to full sunshine, but the greater number of these plants will stand a full exposure if only the roots are protected therefrom by mulching or otherwise. When the plants have become strong and bushy and the branches shade their own roots they will need no further care and the hottest sun will do no harm.

R. KAMTSCHATICUM and R. CHRYSANTHUM are reported to be difficult subjects. The former grows and flowers well in the open rock-garden in peaty soil; but I have not yet been able to make a success of R. CHRYSANTHUM. I have some little hopes of these plants now that they have been planted in half-shade in a mixture of peat and sphagnum, with live sphagnum growing between the plants. The bed is below a tap so that at any time the bed can be properly irrigated.

I may add to what I have said above that I do not think any harm can possibly be done by using leaves and leaf-mould for *mulching*. With regard to its use round the *roots, I know of one garden near by where the experience is the same as mine; and I know of another garden not much further off where, on the contrary, leaf-mould has been used on a considerable scale and with, apparently, complete success.

EDMUND GILES LODER.

*It is much to be hoped that this question as to the value of leaf-mould may be the subject of experiments in the near future. C.C.E.

LIST OF RHODODENDRON SPECIES GROWING AT LEONARDSLEE, NEAR HORSHAM, SUSSEX, SEPTEMBER, 1918.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

Sir Edmund Loder very kindly consented to compile the following list of Rhododendron species growing in his garden at Leonardslee.

In reply to my enquiries, Sir Edmund, in a letter dated 24th February, 1919, writes :—

" I call R. ARBOREUM VAR. CINNAMONEUM the same thing as R. ARBOREUM ALBUM. This is a distinct thing, described by Hooker as having red underneath the leaf and spotted white flowers. There are very many varieties of R. ARBOREUM with white flowers, and these I call R. ARBOREUM VAR. ALBUM.

As regards R. COOMBENSE, the business is complicated, but I think I made it out once :—

R. YANTHINUM, *Bureau et Franchet.* Jour. de Bot. V., 94. [*Syn.* R. CONCINNUM, *Hemsl. et Wils.* in Kew Bull., 1910, 115, *not* R. CONCINNUM, *Hemsl.*]

R. CONCINNUM, *Hemsl.* Jour. Linn. Soc., XXVI., 21. [*Syn.* R. COOMBENSE, *Hemsl.*, in Bot. Mag., T. 8280].

As regards R. JAPONICUM, my plant is an azalioid and was raised from seed sent by Professor Sargent (No. 7670), and may be R. MOLLE.

R. BAILEYI was raised from seeds collected by Colonel Bailey, in Bhotan, near Nyasjang ; almost all the other plants raised from seeds sent by him look like varieties of R. ARBOREUM."

Regarding R. JAPONICUM, Professor Bayley Balfour, writing to me on March 1st, 1919, says : " The name R. JAPONICUM was tentatively given by Suringar in 1908 to the old R. MOLLE, *Miquel.* The American authorities have taken up this name. (See Plantae Wilsonianæ, I., p. 519.) The name R. JAPONICUM was given by Schneider, in 1909, to the old R. METTERNICHII, *Sieb. et Zucc.*, and this name has been taken up by Kew in the Botanical Magazine."

It has for some time been doubted whether any old plants (the true wild form) of either R. MOLLE or R. SINENSE are in this country, and in answer to a question as to this, Professor Bayley Balfour writes under the same date : " The two questions which you ask about old plants of R. MOLLE and of R. SINENSE I cannot answer. The hope of getting such an answer was the reason of the delay in the publication of a paper which I wrote three years ago for the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, dealing with this question of R. JAPONICUM. Regarding the relationship between R. MOLLE and R. SINENSE

you may care to read the enclosed translation of a paper by Suringar, published in GARTENFLORA, in 1908, in which he discusses the questions of their difference, their prevalence in cultivation and their nomenclature. I should take it that the R. JAPONICUM sent by Professor Sargent last year is the R. JAPONICUM of Suringar, i.e., the true R. MOLLE, but a glance at the leaf taking the characters given in Plantæ Wilsonianæ, and by Suringar in his paper will tell you at once whether it is R. MOLLE or R. SINENSE."

Sir Edmund Loder tells me that Professor Balfour has examined his plant of nigropunctatum, and is of the opinion that it is not the true species. (See also Rhod. Soc. Notes, Vol. I., p. 149.)

The thanks of the Society are due to Sir Edmund Loder for the trouble taken to get out this list.

C. C. E

adenogynum
adenopodum
*æruginosum
albiflorum
*Albrechtii
ambiguum
Amesiæ
amoenum
Anthopogon
anthosphærum
apodectum
arborescens
†arboreum
arboreum "Sir Charles Lemon"
†arboreum album
(*syn.* cinnamoneum)
arboreum var. Kermisinum
(blood red)
argenteum (*syn.* grande)
*argyrophyllum var. cupulare
Augustinii
auriculatum
austrinum
†Baileyi
barbatum
*charianthum
Boothii (tender)
brachycarpum
bracteatum
Brettii
(*syn.* longesquamatum)
bullatum (tender)
calendulaceum
californicum
calophyllum
calophyllum var. tubiflorum
calophyllum var. virginale
calophytum
campanulatum
*camelliæflorum
campylocarpum
campylogynum
candidum
carolinianum
catawbiense
caucasicum
cephalanthoides microforme
cephalanthum
*Chamæcistus
(*syn.* for Rhodothamnus
Chamæcistus)
‡Fortunei Spooneri

* Not in the Caerhays List, Rhod. Soc. Notes, Vol. I., p. 132. C.C.E.
† See Introductory Note, pp. 197, 198.
‡ See Note upon the Fortunei group, pp. 187–193. C.C.E.

chartophyllum
chrysanthum
ciliatum
cinnabarinum
*cinnabarinum var. blandfordiæflorum
*cinnabarinum var. intermedium
cinnabarinum var. Roylei
†concinnum, *Hemsl.*
coreanum
crassum
cuneatum
cyanocarpum
Dalhousiæ (tender)
dauricum
dauricum sempervirens
Davidsonianum
decorum
Delavayi
dianthiflorum
dichroanthum
dilatatum
discolor
Edgeworthii (tender)
euanthum
elæagnoides
*eriogynum
*erubescens
eximium
Faberi (*syn.* Pratti)
Falconeri
Fargesii
fastigiatum
ferrugineum
fictolacteum, *Balf. f.*
fictolacteum (5843 Forrest)
fictolacteum ? (4254 Wilson)
flavidum (*syn.* primulinum)
flavum
floribundum
*Fordii
formosum (*syn.* Gibsoni)
Fortunei
‡Fortunei Kirkii
‡*Fortunei lucidum
fulgens
glaucum
Grievei (old hybrid)
Griffithianum (*syn.* Aucklandii)
habrotrichum
Hanceanum
heliolepis
*hyphenanthum
hippophæoides
hirsutum
Hodgsonii
Hookeri
Houlstonii
Hunnewellianum
hylothreptum
hypoglaucum
impeditum
*indicum
insigne
intricatum
irroratum
†*japonicum
kamtschaticum
Keiskei
Keysii
*Kingianum
*Kotschyi
lacteum, *Franch*
lanatum
ledifolium
ledoides
lepidotum
linearifolium
longistylum
lutescens
Maddenii (*syn.* Jenkinsii)
*macrosepalum
maximum
melinanthum
Metternichii
*Metternichii pentamerum
micranthum
†molle (=japonicum)
monosematum

* Not in the Caerhays List, Rhod. Soc. Notes, Vol. I., p. 132. C.C.E.
† See Introductory Note, pp. 197, 198.
‡ See Note upon the Fortunei group, pp. 187–193. C.C.E.

moupinense
mucronulatum
neriiflorum
†*nigropunctatum ?
niphargum
nivale
niveum
nudiflorum
Nuttallii (tender)
*obovatum
oleifolium, *Franch.*
*occidentale
oreodoxa ?
oreotrephes
ovatum
*oxyphyllum (tender)
pachytrichum
parvifolium
pentaphyllum
pholidotum
plebeium
polylepis
ponticum
*procumbens
(=Loiseleuria procumbens)
prostratum
*proteoides
Przewalskii
*punctatum
quinquefolium
racemosum
rhantum
*Rhodora
rhombicum
Ririei
rotundifolium (*syn.* orbiculare)
rubiginosum
rupicolum
*salignum
Sargentianum
Schlippenbachii
Searsiæ
serpyllifolium
setosum
†sinense (=800 Wilson),
orig. introduced by Fortune)
sinogrande (tender)
sinolepidotum
Smirnowii
Souliei
spinuliferum
stamineum
strigillosum
sublanceolatum
sutchuenense
taliense
Thayerianum
Thomsonii
Traillianum
trichocladum
triflorum
*Tschonoskii
Ungernii
Vaseyi
*Vialii
Victorianum (hybrid of Dalhousiæ and Nuttallii, tender)
villosum
*Wallichii (*syn.* campanulatum var. Wallichii)
Wasonii
Watsonii
Weldianum
Wightii
Williamsianum
Wiltonii
†yanthinum (=concinnum, *Hemsl. et Wils.*)
*yunnanense
zaleucum

September, 1918.

EDMUND GILES LODER.

* Not in the Caerhays List, Rhod. Soc. Notes, Vol. I., p. 132. C.C.E.
† See Introductory Note, pp. 197, 198.

THE SPELLING OF RHODODENDRON NAMES.

LETTER FROM LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR DAVID PRAIN, C.M.G., WITH A MEMORANDUM FROM THE KEEPER OF THE HERBARIUM AND LIBRARY, ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW.

Royal Botanic Gardens,
Kew, Surrey.

Dear Mr. Eley,

As regards the questions of nomenclature I cannot do better, I think, than enclose in original a memorandum by the Keeper of the Herbarium which might be taken as an authoritative statement of the effects of compliance with the Vienna Code.

With kind regards, Yours sincerely,

14*th March*, 1919. D. PRAIN.

MEMORANDUM RESPECTING THE SPELLING OF RHODODENDRON NAMES.

Taking the recommendations of the Vienna Code of 1905 as a basis, the following rules would have to be adhered to :—

1. Recomm. XI. Specific name from the name of a man.
   (a) When the name ends in a vowel, the letter *i* is added.
   (b) When the name ends in a consonant, the letters *ii* are added, except when the word ends *er*, when *i* is added.
   (d) When specific names taken from the name of a person have an adjectival form a similar plan is adopted.

According to these we would have for instance :—

(a) Rhododendron BLUMEI, *Nutt.* and Rhododendron VASEYI, *A. Gray.*
(b Rhododendron KENDRICKII, *Nutt.* and Rhododendron HOOKERI, *Nutt.*
(d) Rhododendron BROOKEANUM, *Low.* and Rhododendron BLANDINIANUM, *Martr.*

Recomm. XII. The same applies to the names of women. These are written in the feminine when they have a substantival form, e.g., Rhododendron CHAMPIONÆ, *Hook.*

2. Recomm. X. Specific names begin with a small letter, except those which are taken from names of persons (substantives or adjectives), or those which are old generic names (substantives or adjectives).

e.g., Rhododendron AFGHANICUM, *Aitch. and Hemsl.*, Rhododendron BLANDINIANUM, *Martr.*, Rhododendron ALBRECHTII, *Maxim.*, Rhododendron RHODORA, *J. F. Gmel.* (because of the old generic name Rhodora, *Linn.*), and Rhododendron ANTHOPOGON, *D. Don.* (meant as a descriptive adjective).

13*th March*, 1919. O. STAPF.