Report from the Oak ICRA checklist

Full Name: - ***Quercus delavayi***

Quercus delavayi Franch. (1899)

Infrageneric Classification

Subgenus *Cyclobalanopsis*

Description

See: Huang Chengjiu et al.., Volume 4 of *Flora of China* (1999) Page 399 as *Cyclobalanopsis*

Natural Distribution

FAR EAST ASIA: CHINA: (Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Sichuan, Yunnan)

Illustration of Leaves

Image from a plant at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens (UK) ©Jan De Langhe, Ghent University Botanical Garden, 2010

Recent Monograph References

(Menitsky) **Oaks of Asia** (2005) page 290

(Hardÿ & Lamant) **Guide illustré des Chênes** (2006) Volume 1, page 488

Oak Collections Growing this Taxon

The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens (UK National Collection®)

The Explorers

The French Missionary-Botanists

- Père David
- Père Delavay
- Père Farges

In The Beginning
The earliest days of plant exploration

The Golden Age of Botany
A time of enlightenment and discovery

The Wardian Age
A botanical age defined by a simple device

The 20th Century
A rapidly disappearing natural world

Home > The Explorers > The French Missionary-Botanists > Père Delavay

Père Jean Marie Delavay (1834 - 1895)

As a missionary for Missions Etrangères de Paris (Foreign Missions of Paris) his first post was to Hui-chou, east of Canton, in 1867. He spent years exploring the surrounding regions and traveled as far afield as north-west Yunnan. He returned briefly to France in 1881 where he met with Père Armand David and was persuaded to collect for Adrien Franchet at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle.

Franchet had no way of knowing what an incredible plant explorer Delavay would prove to be, as he had only dabbled it botany in the past. When Delavay returned to China in 1882 he based his explorations around Tapintze in the mountains of north-west Yunnan - one of the most botanically rich areas in the world.

Delavay traveled alone. Like Armand David before him, but unlike so many of the plant hunters and explorers who would follow in his steps, Delavay did not employ dozens of porters and packers to carry his equipment and collections. Alone on foot he traversed the mountain ranges seeking alpine species he hoped would be adaptable to western gardens. Also like Armand David, Delavay was very methodical, searching an area with the greatest attention to detail as he went. No plant was too small or insignificant for his notice, and no variation in flower or leaf was too small to be ignored. This dedication resulted in one of the largest collections ever made, constituting a staggering 200,000 specimens representing over 4000 species of mainly alpine flora, of which 1500 were new discoveries.

Of his many discoveries, only a very few were successfully introduced into cultivation. This was largely due to the fact that he collected small quantities of each species found, returning material enough to start only a few specimens at a time. Not until the wholesale collections of Frank N. Meyer, George Forrest and E. H. Wilson would many of his discoveries be truly introduced. Some of the plants he discovered and introduced are ***Deutzia dicolor***, ***Deutzia purpurascens***, ***Aster delavayi***, ***Rhododendron ciliicalyx***, ***Rhododendron irroratum***, ***Rhododendron racemosum***, ***Primula forbesii***, ***Primula***

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http://www.oaknames.org/images/leafpics/Quercus_delavayi_HGAA19980378A-CMBS481_JDL016883_19APR2010_01.jpg

21/02/2011

Quercus Fargesii sp. nov.

(*Cyclobalanopsis*). — Arbor; rami etiam juniores glabri, cortice griseo lucido; folia longe petiolata, petiolo glabro, 3 cent. longo; limbus 12-15 cent. crasse chartaceus e basi rotundata breviter acutus vel acuminatus, fere e basi æqualiter dentatus, dentibus ascendentibus rigide mucronatis, supra glaber, impresso nervatus, infra glaucus nervis secundariis validis ad apicem usque simplicibus, crebris, paribus nunc 16-13; folia juvenilia sericea; amenta mascula demum 15 cent. longa, pendentia fasciculata, axi tomentosa, floribus pubescentibus; amenta fœminea 5-9 flora, floribus et fructibus sessilibus spicatis; cupula 7-8 mill. longa, velutina, cyclis concentricis margine integerrimis, sæpius 7-8, laxis; glans ovato-globosa, pro tertia vel quarta parte superiore libera, apice mamillata, circiter 1 cent. longa.

Hab. — China occidentalis, in provincia Su tchuen, circa Héou pin prope Tchen kéou pin, alt. 1400 m. — Nomen vernaculum: *Ta ye pao*. — Sur le tronc en décomposition on cultive le Champignon *Hiang kun* (R. P. Farges, n. 1007).

Voisin surtout du *Q. mespilifolia* Wall., dont il diffère surtout par ses feuilles blanches glauques en dessous et par ses glands beaucoup plus petits, nullement ombonés. Le *Q. glauca*, dans toutes ses formes, a les feuilles plus petites, plus étroites, plus minces, à limbe entier dans le tiers inférieur.

Quercus Delavayi sp. nov.

(*Cyclobalanus*). — Arbor excelsa; rami pulverulento-velutini, cinerascentes; folia juniora utraque facie fulvo-tomentella, adulta supra glabra, subtus dense tomentosa, petiolo 20-25 mm. longo, pulverulento, limbo e basi rotundato vel breve attenuato crasse coriaceo 8-10 cent. longo, e medio vel e tertia parte inferiore dentato, dentibus porrectis, calloso-mucronulatis; nervi secundarii utroque latere 10-11; amenta mascula crebra, fasciculata, brevia, tomentella; rami fructiferi 4-6 cent. longi, pulverulenti; fructus sessiles, sæpius 3-6; cupula concava, 4-5 mm. alta, extus velutina, squamarum cyclis margine crenatis; glans puberula, globoso-depressa, e cupula vix exserta, 4-5 mm. longa, raro longior, ovata.

Hab. — China occidentalis, in provincia Yunnan : in silvis circa Ta pin tze (R. P. Delavay, n. 554); prope Che tcho tze, alt. 2000 m. (id., n. 4782); Mo che tzin supra Ta pin tze (id., n. 3259); Hee chan men.

Voisin du *Q. lineata*, var. *Lobbi* Wenzig, mais beaucoup plus tomenteux; il en diffère en outre par ses glands déprimés.

Delavay's Oak.

- Pere Jean Delavay (1834 – 19895)
- Missionary for Missions Etrangeres de Paris, posted to Hui-Chou, east of Canton in 1867.
- Travelled extensively in China particularly Yunnan Province.
- Persuaded by Pere Armand David to collect for Franchet at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle when he returned to France in 1881.
- Returned to China in 1882 and alone and on foot traversed around Tapintze, north West Yunnan
- Searched for alpine plant species acceptable to western gardens. He was methodical and meticulous -> 200,000 specimens,4,000 species of which 1500 were new discoveries.
- Few were successfully cultivated due to small quantities of each species found.
- Species include Deutzia. Aster, Rhododendron, Primula, Omanthus and Incarvillea.
- In 1886 contracted Bubonic Plague -> Hong Kong to convalesce collecting plants on the way returning to France in 1891 to recuperate.
- Returned to China in 1893 -> another 1850 plants to the collection, died in 1895 in Yunnan province.

Description of Delavay's Oak from the Journal de Botanique. and Oak ICEA checklist

Quercus delavayi French (1899)

Infragenic Classification - subgenus Cyclobalanopsis

Description – see Huang Chengiu et al. Vol 4 of Flora of China page 309 as *Cyclobalanopsis*

Illustration of leaves from a plant at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens (UK) and Clan De Langue Ghent University Botanical Garden.

Recent Monogram references - (Menitsky) Oaks of Asia (2005) page 290.

(Hardy and Lamant) Guide illustre des Chenes 2006 Volume 1 Page 488

(Translation of entry.) Jennifer NcGregor Clark and Latin Class U3A May 2011

<u>Quercus Delavayi</u> New Species.

(Cyclobanus) - A tall tree with branches looking as if they are covered with dust and ash; each younger leaf has a brownish-orange colour, the older leaves at the top are hairless, beneath they are thickly tomentose, with a petiole 20 – 25 mm long, dusty with a margin circular from the base either with a small thick unadorned ("coriaceo" ?coriaceous)8 – 10 cms long, or from the middle from the third lower part with spikes with longer spikes, hard and sharp pointed, the second sinews on each side

10 – 11; the male thongs (?)are close, in little bunches, short, dusty; the branches are fruit bearing 4-6 cms. long and dusty; the fruit is low (? Dwarf) more than 3-6,the cupule is concave 4-5 mms high, dusty ouside,with rings of scales burnt (?)on the edge; the maturing acorn, pressed down in a sphere, scarcely protruding from the cupule 4-5 mm long, rarely longer, oval in shape.

Habitat – Oriental China in the Province of Yunnan in the woods around Tapintze.

BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS.

In 1995 the Sisters of St John of God Hospital in Ballarat celebrated the centenary of their arrival in Ballarat by planting a tree in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Sister Assumption, who was present at the dedication, says that the Sisters were told that this was a very rare tree, that only two were in Australia and that they must take good care of it.

The tree is a Delavay's Oak, *Quercus delavayi* and it is indeed a rare tree. It does not appear in the usual reference books but a description of the tree has been obtained from the journal de Botanique supplied by the staff of the Kew Gardens although they do not have a specimen. The only garden that has so far been found to have one growing is the Sir Harold Hillier Garden in the U.K. and possibly one in Edinburgh. Pictures of the leaves have been obtained from the Hillier Garden and the Ghent University Botanical Gaden.

The relevance of the tree in such a celebration for the Sisters would seem to be the association with a Catholic Missionary priest who became such an important Botanist with prolific finds.

Where the tree came from has not been found as yet. One thing is certain; this is indeed a very rare tree and deserves recognition.

Jg 5/11