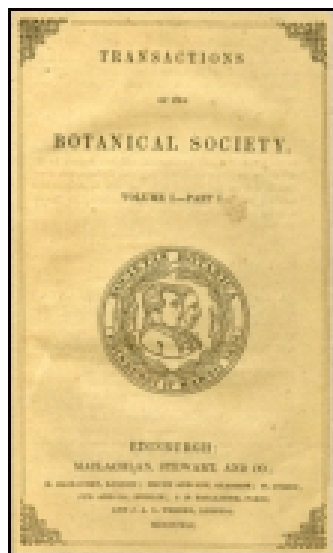


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Dracocephalum taliense, G. Forrest. Sp. nov.

Species valde affinis *D. tangutico*, Maxim. a quo habitu diverso, caulibus supra ramosis paucifloris, verticillastris 1-2-floris regione foliata haud discretis eacumque \pm intermixtis inter alia recedit.

Herba perennis 45-60 cm. alta caulibus gracilibus infra simplicibus supra medium ramosis ramulis ascendentibus bene foliatis paucifloris. Folia 2-3-jugo-pinnatisecta segmentis linearibus usque ad 2.5 cm. longis 1 mm. latis acutis revolutis supra glabris subnitentibus infra ad costam prominentem albo-villosis. Verticillastri saepius 1-2-flori pauci vulgo 4-5 inflorescentiam laxam spiciformem (terminalem sed una cum regione foliata intermixtam) haud conspicuam formantes. Bracteae foliis simillimae; pedicelli fere nulli. Calyx ± 1.2 cm. longus tubulosus mediocriter albo-villosulus viridis vel supra purpurascens; dentes 3-4 mm. longi triangulari-lanceolati subspinescentes. Corolla ± 2 cm. longa saturate purpurea extus dense intus sparse albo-villosa; tubus supra ventricosus-amplius, labium superum circ. 3 mm. longum emarginatum, inferum circ. 5 mm. longum lobo medio reniformi. Stamina e tubo exserta filamentis albo-villosis. Nuculae maturae desunt.

"Plant of $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 ft. Flowers deep soft purple, open dry situations amongst pine scrub and on ledges of cliffs on the western flank of the Tali Range, Yunnan. Lat. $25^{\circ} 40'$ N. Alt. 10,000 ft. Aug. 1913." G. Forrest, No. 11,524.

This species differs much less from the Kansu plant than the allied species do.

NOTE ON PARASYRINGA, A NEW GENUS OF OLEACEAE.

By W. W. SMITH, M.A.

(Read 10th February 1916.)

In 1886 Franchet described under *Syringa sempervirens* a peculiar Yunnan plant and found it necessary to extend the scope of the genus *Syringa* for the accommodation of his new species. This he did by making a new section

Sarcocarpion, of which *Syringa sempervirens*, Franch., is the sole representative. Several characters of the new species accord ill with *Syringa*—the evergreen coriaceous foliage, the more or less fleshy mesocarp of the fruit, and the single wingless seed. The habit of the plant, moreover, does not suggest *Syringa*; so little is it reminiscent of that genus that anyone unacquainted with the plant would compare it with *Ligustrum* and its allies in his first attempt at identification. These difficulties have already been noted by Schneider in his *Illustriertes Handbuch der Laubholzkunde*, vol. ii, p. 771, from which I quote his apt note:—“Die *S. sempervirens*, Franchet, in Bull. Soc. Linn. Paris, i, 613, 1886, aus Yunnan, mit immergrünen B. und steinfruchtartiger Fr. mit etwas fleischigem Mesocarp und ungeflügelten Samen kenne ich nur aus einem Bl.-Exemplar, das viel mehr einem *Ligustrum* als einer *Syringa* gleicht. Franchet begründete auf diese Art seine Sekt. *Sarcocarpion*. Meiner Meinung nach handelt es sich hier wohl um eine neue Gattung, doch konnte ich die Fr. noch nicht untersuchen.”

The resemblance to the genus *Ligustrum* is well illustrated by the marked similarity in habit and leaves to *Ligustrum coriaceum*, Carr., an excellent figure of which is given in Bot. Mag., tab. 7519. The native country of this latter plant is not definitely known—it is possibly Japan; by many good authorities the plant is considered merely a growth form of *L. japonicum*, Thunb., which has arisen in Japanese gardens. However that may be, the resemblance is so close that Mr. George Forrest (collector of the sheets quoted below) was at first sight inclined to believe that plants of the latter growing in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, were the same as the Yunnan plant known to him. The fruits, however, of the two plants are quite distinct, that of *L. coriaceum* being a globose berry, the size of a small pea, that of the Yunnan plant oblong and dehiscent from the apex.

The plant is then somewhat awkwardly placed in *Syringa*, although nearly allied; its dehiscent fruit separates it readily from *Ligustrum* and other members of the *Oleineae*. I suggest as the generic name *Parasyringa*. Franchet's sectional name would be appropriate, but that name, with

a slightly different suffix, is, as Franchet himself points out, a synonym of *Kadsura*.

Parasyringa, W. W. Sm. Genus novum.

Calyx cupuliformis dentibus 4 brevissimis praeditus. Corolla tubulosa tubo calycem 2-3-plo superante, lobis 4 calyci subaequilongis induplicato-valvatis. Stamina 2 supra medium tubum affixa filamentis antheras aequantibus; antherae oblongae paululo exsertae medio dorso insertae. Ovarium 2-loculare; stylus ovario subduplo longior, stigmatibus breviter bifido; ovula in quoque loculo 2 ab apice loculi pendula. Drupa oblonga subteres mesocarpio tenui loculis inaequalibus altero casso altero abortu monospermo, apice dehiscens. Semen solitarium pendulum haud compressum exalatum; albumen carnosum; cotyledones planae radícula brevi supera. Fruticulus glaber. Folia opposita integra coriacea persistentia. Flores in paniculas terminales densas dispositi. Species unica yunnanensis.

Parasyringa sempervirens, W. W. Sm. Comb. nov.

Syringa sempervirens, Franch., in Bull. Soc. Linn. Paris, i (1886), 613; Hemsl., in Journ. Linn. Soc., xxvi (1889), 84; Diels, in Notes R. B. G. Edin., vii (1912), 116, 149, 257; Schneider, Handb. Laubholz., ii (1911), 771.

As the original description of the species is not in a readily accessible publication, I reproduce below Franchet's diagnosis:—

Sectio: *Sarcocarpion* (*Sarcocarpon* Bl. est *Kadsuræ* synonym.).—Fructus drupaceus, mesocarpio rupto loculicide dehiscens; loculis valde inaequalibus: altero casso, ovulis abortientibus; altero rite evoluto, abortu monospermo; semen oblongum, vix compressum, exalatum, incurvum. Frutex sempervirens, foliis coriaceis. Species hucusque cognita unica, infra descripta.

Syringa (*Sarcocarpion*) *sempervirens*, sp. nov.—Frutex bimetralis, ex toto glaber, ramosus, ramis, hornotinis angulatis, lenticellosis; folia breviter petiolata, limbo (1-1½ poll. longo) rigide coriaceo, late ovato vel suborbiculato, integerrimo, margine revoluta; cymae pauciflorae, secus ramos patentibus paniculam terminalem pyramid-

atam efficientes; pedicelli inaequilongi (2-4 mill.), crassi; calyx cupuliformis obsolete crenatus; corolla alba tubulosa, tubo breviusculo (6-8 mill.) calyce subtriplo longiore, lobis demum reflexis, crassis, subobtusis; stamina circiter e medio tubi orta, antheris medio dorso insertis, oblongo-linearibus, corollam subaequantibus; stylus apice breviter bifidus; capsula drupacea, sub maturitate caerulescens, ovata, 12-15 mill. longa, semen unicum fovens.

Yun-nan, in montibus supra Tapintze, alt. 2500 m., legit *Delavay*.

The following sheets of the species are in the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh :—

“Dwarf shrub of 1-2 ft. Flowers creamy-yellow, fragrant. Dry shady situations on the margins of pine forests on the eastern flank of the Lichiang Range, Yunnan. Lat. 27° 30' N. Alt. 12,000 ft. July 1910.” G. Forrest, No. 6197.

“Evergreen shrub of 4-6 ft. Flowers immature, probably yellowish-white. In open shrub on the descent to the Yangtze from the eastern boundary of the Lichiang valley. Lat. 27° 15' N. Alt. 9000-10,000 ft. June 1913.” G. Forrest, No. 10,124.

“Evergreen shrub of 6-9 ft. Foliage coriaceous. Flowers pale creamy-yellow, fragrant. Open scrub and in thickets in the mountains in the N.E. of the Yangtze bend, Yunnan. Lat. 27° 45'. Alt. 8000-9000 ft. Aug. 1913.” G. Forrest, No. 10,735.

“Shrub of 3-5 ft. In fruit. Open situations amongst scrub on the Yung-pe mountains, Yunnan. Lat. 26° 45' N. Alt. 9000 ft. Sept. 1913.” G. Forrest, No. 11,042.

I should add that young plants grown from seed (Forrest, No. 11,042), the gift of J. C. Williams, Esq., Caerhays Castle, Cornwall, are now in the Royal Botanic Garden. If, however, the rate of growth corresponds to that of *Ligustrum coriaceum*, Carr. (which in habit it so closely resembles), it will be some considerable time before it reaches the flowering stage.