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**CHRONOLOGY OF PLANT TAXONOMY IN KOREA**

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The study of Korean plants began with the introduction of herbal knowledge from China. It seems likely that herbal literature was introduced to Korea before the Silla Dynasty, because there already existed a bureau of medicine in the Paekche era and in the first year of King Hyoso of Silla. As in western countries, the importation of herbal knowledge was aimed at curing human disease. Therefore, the exploration of plant resources was naturally restricted to their medicinal use. Many herbals were published at the beginning of the Yi Dynasty, but these were copies of Pen Tsao Kang Mu (本草綱目) by Li Chi Chen, published in 1596.

The first botanical collection of Korean plants was made by Baron Alexander Schlippenbach,a German admiral, in the year 1854 while he was on a mission to survey the eastern coastline of Korea in his warship the “Palace.” About fifty species collected by him were reported by F.A.W. Miquel,a Dutch botanist, in the Prolusia Florae Japanicae1 during the years 1865 to 1867. Rhododendron schlippenbachii Max and Salix Koreensis Andersson2 were first made known by the Baron’s collection.

In 1858 Charles Wilford,a botanist of the Kew Royal Botanical Gardens,collected some plants from Komun-do, off the southern

1F. A. W. Miquel, “Prolusio Florae Japonicae,” in Miquel,Annales Musei Botanici Lugduno-Bataui, Vol. 2,pp- 69-212,257-300 (1865-66) ; Vol 3,pp. 1-66, pp. 91-209 (1867).

2N. J. Andersson and B. A. Schlippenbach,Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis, Vol. 16,Chapter 2,Section 2,p. 261 (1868).

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coast of Korea,and from Pusan when the British surveying ship the “Actaeon” was surveying the coastlines of East Asia. His specimens were reported afterward by J.D. Hooker and C.J. Maximowicz.3

In 1863 Richard Oldham, a botanist of the Kew Royal Botanical Gardens who followed the crew of a British ship,the “Swallow”, collected plant specimens from the southern part of Japan and the southern part of Korea. Those specimens were reported by Miquel and D. Oliver in 1865. R.A. Williamson went on a botanical expedition to Mount Paektu through Manchuria in 1869.

Admiral W. Wykeham Perry, on his British warship the “Wills”, collected some plants during the period from 1881 to 1884. His specimens and those collected by Captain Carpenter of the British ship the “Magpie” on his voyage to the Far East were sent to the Kew Botanical Gardens. Carles, who stayed in Inchon from 1883 for two years,extended his plant expeditions to the northern boundary of Korea. All of those specimens appear in the Index Florae Sinensis4 of F.B. Forbes and W.B. Hemsley published from 1888 to 1905.

Carl Gottsche, a German geologist invited to Japan, participated in a botanical trip from Inchon to Seoul and up to the Yalu River during the years 1883 and 1884. Specimens collected are preserved in the Berlin Museum. The Japanese ambassador Y. Hanabusa stayed in Korea from November 25,1877 to September 18, 1882. Specimens collected during his sojourn in Korea are kept at the University of Tokyo and were reported in 1886 as being 148 species belonging to 47 families.5

3 C.J Maximowicz, Memoires de L’Academie Imperiale des Sciences de St. Petersburg, Vol. 10, No. 11 (1866) ; and Maximowicz, Bulletin de L’Academie Imperiale des Sciences de St. Petersburg, Vol. 15 (1870).

4 F. B. Forbes and W. B. Hemsley, “Index Florae Sinensis”,an enumeration of all the plants known from China,etc., The Journal of the Linnean Society, Botany Vol. 23, pp. 1-521 (1886-88) ; Vol. 26, pp. 1-592 (1889-1902) ; Vol. 26, pp. 1-686 (1903-5).

5 Cataloguc of plants in the herbarium of the College of Sciences, Imperial University, Tokyo (1886), pp. 271-280*.*

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In 1884 the specimens collected by two Christian missionaries, Rossi and Webster, from Manchuria to the frontier of Korea were sent to the Kew Botanical gardens in England. These men discovered Viola websteri Hemsley6 and Aceriphyllum roossii Engler.7 From April to October of 188b Kalinowsky made collections, and those specimens plus the collections made by Warburg, a German explorer who stopped in Korea on his expedition to East Asia,appeared in the Monsunia (Volume One) in 1900.

In April of 1889 a medical doctor, A. Bunge, collected about thirty species from Inchon and at the same time another medical doctor, N.C. Epow, went from Pusan on a plant hunting trip up the eastern coast. In 1892 Herry, a collector for Veitch Nurseries, collected some specimens. From 1893 for a two-year period a Russian missionary, A. Sontag, collected plants from the Seoul area. V.L. Komarov who began a plant expedition from the regions of Amur and Ussuri in 1895 reached the northern part of Korea over the border through Manchuria in 1897. The specimens collected at that time were reported in his Florae Manshuriae8 published from 1901-1907.

From 1898 to 1901 J. Palibin compiled three volumes of Conspectus Florae Koreae9 in winch 635 species and twenty known varieties were included.

During the years 1900 to 1901 a Catholic priest named Faurie (1847-1915) from France, stationed at Aomori, Japan, sent many specimens collected from Tsushima Island and Korea to Europe- From 1906 to 1907 Father E. Taquet of Quelpaert (Cheju-do) joined him and sent many thousands of Korean specimens to Europe, which

*6 The Journal of the Linnean Society, Botany, Vol. 23, p. 56 (1886-1888) .*

*7 Engler and Prantl, Naturlichen Pflanzen-familien,Vol. 3,2a, p. 52 (1890).*

*8 V. L. Komarov, Flora Manshuriae 1,Actta Horti Petropolitani) Vol. 20,pp. 1-559 (1901) ; Vol. 22, pp. 1-787 (1903-4) ; Vol. 25, pp, 1-853 (1907).*

*9 J. W. Palibin, Conspectus Florae Koreae, Acta, Horti Petropolitani, Vol. 17,pp. 1-128 (1898,pars prima); Vol. 18,pp. 147-198 (1900,pars secunda) ; Vol. 19,pp. 101-151 (1901,pars tertia).*

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were published by C. Christensen (1872-1942), H. Christ (1833-1933), H. Leveille10 (1863-1918), C. Vaniot11 (?-1913), G. Kukenthal (1864-1956), E. Hacken12 (1850-1916), and H. Boissien (1875- 1912).

Father E. Taquet, a pioneer in plant study in Korea, was born at Hecq, Quesnoy, Nord in France near the border of Belgium on October 30, 1873. In 1897 he was ordained a Catholic priest upon his graduation from seminary in Paris. From the time he arrived in Seoul on January 5, 1898 until 1902 he concentrated all his efforts on pastoral work in Tongnae, Miryang, Kimhae, Chinju, Koje and Masan. From 1902 to 1915 he was stationed on the southern side of Quelpaert. He began to collect plant specimens in 1906. His collections came mostly from Mt. Halla,but some came from the Mokpo area. The larger part of his collection was made between 1908 and 1912. After 1915 he stopped plant collection and concentrated his efforts on the Catholic Churches in Mokpo,Chindo and Wando. Finally he became head of the School of Theology in Taegu. Although he died on January 27, 1952 at Namsan-dong in Taegu his specimens are well kept in the famous herbaria of the world,including Tokyo University, Kyoto University and the National Museum of Tokyo. However, none remain in Korea. He collected many new species, such as Tilia taquetii Schneider and Ligularia taquetii Nakai, which were discovered by him.

From the beginning of the twentieth century Japanese botanists became interested in Korean Flora. T. Uchiyama of Tokyo University made collection trips to the Diamond Mountains through Pusan

10 H. Leveille,Le Monde des Plantes (1908) ; and Leveille, In Fedde Repertorium Novarm Specierum Regni Vegetablis, Vol. 5-9 (1908-1911) ; Bulletin de L’Academie Internationale de Geographie Botanique (1910).

11 L.eveille, H. et Vaniot,In Fedde Repertorium Nouarutn Specierum Regni Vegetabilis,

12 Hackel, Bulletin de L’Herbier Boissier, Vol. 2,series 3,pp. 500-7 (1903).

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during the summers of 1900 and 1901. This collection was taken over by T. Nakai of Tokyo University who made a study of Korean Flora as his doctoral thesis. He published the first volume of Flora Koreana in 1909. His second volume included materials he collected on an expedition from Wonsan to the northern frontier of Korea together with specimens from previous collections. in 1912, Nakai published a col-lection of Korean plants made by Mills,13 and the following year he was appointed botanist of the Government General of Chosen. After 1914,when he published his first volume of Korean plants, he wrote 22 volumes of *Flora Sylvatica Koreana*14 during the period 1915- 1939. In addition to these books he wrote many articles until 1942 wnen he suspended his study for several years. *Synoptical Sketch of Korean Flora*, published in 1952, ended his study of Korean plants.

From the year 1910 three Japanese botanists,T. Mori, T. Ishido-ya and H. Uyeki, studied Korean plant life. T. Mori, after publication of his *An Enumeration of Korean Plants* in 1922, shifted his field of study to ichthyology. Ishidoya turned to the study of medicinal plants. However, Uyeki continued his study of woody plants up to the time of the Liberation, along with the teaching of forest botany and silviculture at the College of Agriculture and Forestry at Suwon.

In the year 1911 Chung Tae-hyon, the first plant collector of Korean birth, began to collect woody plants in cooperation with Ishidoya at the Forest Experiment Station in Seoul. From 1913 Chung followed Nakai as a local guide during his botanical explorations of Korea. Abelia taihyoni Nakai was named in memory of him.

At the same time Chung was collecting plants, many biology teachers in the high schools of Korea began to collect local plants.

13 *The Botanical Magazine of Tokyo*, Japan, Vol. 26, pp. 29-49 (1912).

14 Vols. 1-2 (1915); Vol. 3 (1917); Vols. 4-6 (1916); Vol 7 (1918); Vols.8 (1919); Vols. 9-10 (1920); Vol. 11 (1921); Vol. 12 (1922); Vols. 13-14 (1923);V ol. 15 (1926); Vol. 16 (1927); Vol. 17 (1928); Vol. 18 (1930); Vol 19 (1932); Vol. 20 (1933); Vol.21 (1936); Vol. 22 (1939).

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Among those amateur taxonomists who have remained well-known up to the present are Lee Sung-hyon, Chang Hyung-du, To Pong- sup, Lee Tuk-bong, Lee Hui-jae, Chon Suk-kyu, Pak Man-kyu, Choi Ki-chul and Shim Hak-jin.

In 1923 the first volume of the *Journal of the Korean Biological Society* was published, continuing up until the end of the Second World War. The first volume of the *Journal of Local Plants* in 1934 was also its last. On August 8 of the same year the Government General of Chosen proclaimed a law for the preservation of natural monuments. The following year on May 1 some natural resources were designated as natural monuments.

From 1923,names of Korean botanists appeared in botanical articles. *An Enumeration of Common Names of Korean Plants* was published in 1937 by a group of high school teachers. This publication gave an opportunity to revert from Japanese to Korean nomenclature. Publication of the *Illustrated Forest Plants of Korea* by Chung Tae-hyon in 1943 encouraged amateur taxonomists of Korea to further the study of natural resources.

However, drastic changes in the botanical society as well as the administration were inevitable with the withdrawal of the Japanese after Liberation. Some botanists shifted to administrators and some were kidnapped to the North at the time of the division of the country. Moreover, all of the herbaria of Korea, including specimens and references, were destroyed during the Korean War. In spite of this chaotic situation,from these ashes botanists again emerged ana began to work diligently. The College of Agriculture of Seoul National University has restored over 70,00015 specimens through assistance furnished under United States Public Law 480. Around 40,000 specimens were sent to the College of Arts and Sciences of Seoul

15 T. Lee, “Plant Resources of Korea,” Seoul National University Journal, *Biology and Agriculture*, Vol. 20 (1969).

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National University, and about 20,000 specimens to Sung-kyun-kwan University. Seoul National University decided to establish an arboretum in 1967,16 which was at last made possible by Presidential Decree 5666 on June 10,1971.

16 Index Seminum 1970, Kwanak Arboretum, College of Agriculture, Seoul National University (1970).