



# The Chinese Tulip-Tree

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*Reprinted from the Barnes Arboretum Newsletter #11, by kind permission of the author and the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation.*

In 1859 Asa Gray published an important paper dealing with the relationships of the Japanese flora to that of North America and other parts of the north temperate zone. In it he presented a list of species which he considered identical in eastern North America and Japan, some of which also occurred on the mainland of Asia.

More recent studies have demonstrated that, although closely related, most of these disjunct species are not truly identical but are varietally or even specifically distinct.

It seems entirely likely that if the existence in Asia of the genus *Liriodendron* had been known to Gray he might have considered the eastern American tulip-tree (*L. Tulipifera*) to be identical with the tree that occurs in central China.

