

Magnolia Sprengeri var. Elongata

(Rehder & Wilson) Stapf

This variety is readily distinguished by its oblong-obovate leaves and white flowers.

It is known to me from woodlands in Changyang-Hsien where, between altitudes of from 3000 to 4500 feet above sea level, it grows with the pink flowered type. A slender tree, it is often 50 feet tall, but I do not remember seeing any with a trunk more than six feet in girth. The branches are ascending-spreading, the outline of the crown pyramidal. The trees I saw in blossom bore only scattered flowers, but I attribute this to exceptional seasons rather than lack of floriferousness. This white Magnolia was discovered in Changyang district by A. Henry between 1886 and 1888.

In the autumn, I collected seeds (#688 Veitch seed) and sent them, packed in earth, to Messrs. Veitch. I was then under the impression that they belonged to the pink flowered variety. In April 1901 I first collected flowers of this white form but failed to associate them with my seed #688. In 1907 I revisited the district and collected both the flowers and seeds (#345) which were forwarded to the Arnold Arboretum, where, unfortunately, they failed to germinate.¹⁶ The

16. Specimens of Wilson #345 are in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum. A flowering specimen gathered in April 1907 has been designated the lectotype. A fruiting specimen with the same number was collected in September 1907.

confusion brought about by my mixing the seeds of two Magnolias has been mentioned in detail under *M. sprengeri*.

It remains now to say that this variety flowered for the first time in cultivation in Kew in 1922. In 1925 it flowered at Bodnant, North Wales. On wild trees the flowers equal in size those of the type but so far those produced in cultivation have been smaller. The petals, too, are more oblong and the flower more cupped. However, as the trees get larger they are bound to reproduce all the good qualities of the wilding.



Magnolia sprengeri var. *elongata*.