

# Newly Described Chinese Magnolias

The following descriptions and illustration of unfamiliar magnolia species appeared in a book published in the Peoples Republic of China. The translations, by Judy Young of Seattle, are from *Iconographia Cormophytorum Sinicorum, Tomus 1*, also titled *Zhongguo Gaodeng Zhiwu Tujian Diyi Ce*, edited by the Botanical Research Institute of Academia Sinica, published by Kexue Chubanshe (Science Press), Beijing, 1972.

This is part of a five-volume illustrated handbook of the most common or useful plants of China.

## *Magnolia amoena* Cheng *tianmu mulan*, "Tianmu magnolia"

Deciduous tree, 8-12 meters tall; bark gray or gray-white; branchlets purplish; buds clad with soft long white hairs.

Leaves alternate, membranaceous, broadly oblanceolate-oblong or oblong, 10-15 cm long, 3.5-5 cm broad, apex long-acuminate or short-caudate, base cuneate or rounded, margin entire, veins of the lower surface hairy to the vein axils; petiole 8-11 mm long.

Flowers open before the leaves, solitary at the branch tips, cup-shaped, fragrant, about 6 cm in diameter; tepals 9, of similar shape, oblanceolate or subspatulate, about 5-5.6 cm long,



*Magnolia amoena*.

pink or pale pink; stamens numerous, about 9-10 mm long, filaments purplish red.

Aggregate fruit cylindrical, about 4-6 cm long; follicles few, woody, tuberculate, round or blunt at the apex.

Found on Xitianmu Shan in Zhejiang Province. Grows in the forest at an altitude of 700-1000 meters.

## *Magnolia zenii* Cheng *baohua yulan*, "Baohua yulan" ["yulan": *Magnolia denudata* Desr.]

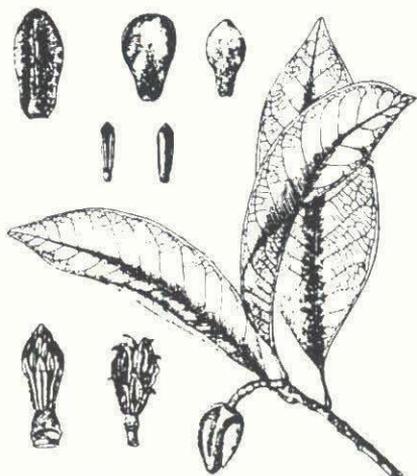
Deciduous small tree, 5-7 meters tall; bark gray or gray-white; branchlets purplish; winter buds long-elliptic, clad with long soft silky hairs.

Leaves membranaceous, oblong-ovovate or oblong, 7-16 cm long, 3-7 cm broad, apex abruptly acute, base cuneate or nearly rounded, margin entire, upper surface glabrous, lower surface pale; veins hairy, lateral veins 10-12 pair, slightly prominent on the lower surface; petiole about 6-15 mm long.

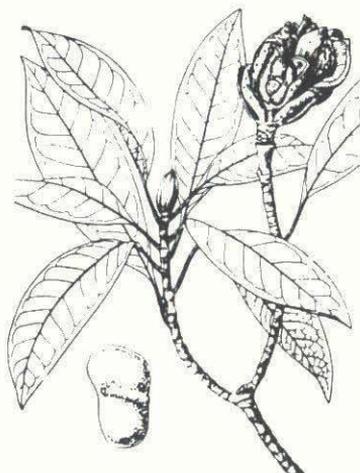
Flowers open before the leaves, solitary at the branch tips, fragrant, about 12 cm in diameter; pedicel 2-6 mm long, densely white-hairy; tepals 9, spatulate, about 7-8 cm long, the upper part white, the lower half and veining



*Magnolia zenii*.



*Magnolia albosericea*.



*Magnolia lotungensis*.

purple; stamens numerous, filaments red.

Aggregate fruit cylindrical, about 5-7 cm long; follicles woody, tuberculate.

Found on Baohua Shan in the Jurong area of Jiangsu Province. Grows in the forest.

*Magnolia albosericea* Chun et C. Tsoong  
*juanmao mulan*, "silky-haired magnolia"

Evergreen small tree, to 8 meters tall; bark gray, the immature portions densely clad with silky white hairs.

Leaves coriaceous, elliptic or narrowly elliptic or oblanceolate-elliptic, 18-40 cm long, 6-15 cm broad, apex acuminate but blunt-tipped, base cuneate or narrowly cuneate, upper surface dark green and lustrous, lower surface pale and clad with soft white hairs; lateral veins 15-20 pair; petiole stout, 1-3.5 cm long; stipule adnate to the petiole, the stipule scar extending to the top of the petiole.

Flowers solitary at the branch tips, the flower bud wrapped in a spathe-like bract of 3 sections which drop off one after another; pedicels stout, 1.5-2 cm long, with dense silky hairs; tepals 9, white, arranged in 3 whorls, the 3 lobes of the outer whorl longest, long-elliptic, 4.6 cm long, the other lobes obovate, the 3 lobes of the inner whorl shorter, about 3 cm long.

Aggregate fruit long-obovoid, about

4.5 cm long; follicles coriaceous, with a reflexed beak at the tip.

Endemic to Guangdong Province (Hainan). Grows in mixed forest mountain slopes or beside streams.

*Magnolia lotungensis* Chun et C. Tsoong  
*ledong mulan*, "Ledong magnolia"

Evergreen tree, to 20 meters tall, 90 cm in diameter, the entire plant glabrous; bark gray-white, branchlets coarse, dark brown.

Leaves stiff-coriaceous, elliptic or narrowly elliptic, 6-11 cm long, 2.5-3.5 cm broad, apex acute, base cuneate, margin cartilaginous, entire, and somewhat revolute, upper surface lustrous, dark brown when dried; petiole 1.5-2 cm long, stipule not adnate to the petiole, with no stipule scar.

Scar about 2-3 cm long remaining on axis of the fruit after stamen bundle drops; pistil stalk about 4-5 mm long.

Aggregate fruit obovoid or ovoid-oblong, 3.5-4 cm long, about 3 cm in diameter; follicles 10-12, elliptic, 18-22 mm long, 12 mm broad, the apex mucronulate; 1-2 seeds within each carpel, red, flat, oblong or elliptic-ovate.

Distributed in Guangdong Province (Hainan) and Hunan Province. [Ledong is a town on Hainan Island.] Grows in open areas of mountain-valley forests. Wood is used in construction.