

VIREYA VINE  
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 RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION

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November 8, 1987

From E. White Smith (VV Editor)

It has been a time since we have published a list of the Rhododendron species in the Section Vireya. If you study the following list you can find out the "species name", "the number that Sleumer assigned to the species", and where I think the plants are growing in cultivation. I am sure this list is not complete, BUT it is the best that I can do if you do not tell me. The abbreviations used in the "Location column" mean; EDIN = RBG Edinburgh, AUST = Australia, NZ = New Zealand, CA = California, OR = Oregon, WA = Washington (State), RSF = Rhododendron Species Foundation.

Dr. Sleumer also did not pad his species numbers with zeros but I have done so because I dumped this list from a Data-base program that needed the padding in order to sort on the numbers. Note that a few of the species have an "A" or "B" behind the number. These species have been added to the list by Sleumer. How do I know that *R. lochae* is number 244A ? I can not remember where I found the number and if you read Sleumer's book he lists the name *R. lochae* on page 475 in a description paragraph about distribution. The species *R. lochae* is not listed in the book. If you spend a great deal of time reading the descriptions in the Sleumer book you might notice the species number 244 (*R. comparabile*) on page 636 says in the Note; "that *R. lochae* is much related, which, however, has red corollas".

The Sleumer book that I am talking about is "An Account of Rhododendron in Malesia", "Partly a reprint from 'Flora Malesiana ser. I, vol. 6, part 4. By H. Sleumer. If you need this book good luck, because it has been out of print for a long time. We should see a new Vireya List out soon. I know off at least three books in the works. If you are new to Vireyas the other good (at least available) book is "The Rhododendron Handbook 1980", "Rhododendron Species in Cultivation" from the RHS.

You will note that I have three species listed as "no #" and this might be OK but we shall need to see what comes out. The three are *R. kawakamii* from Formosa, *R. santapau* from the N E Frontier Agency of India and *R. vaccinioides* which grows in the Himalayas. It could be that Sleumer felt that these plants were not within the geographic area that he was working on. Or they may some day be reclassified to some other group of the genus. Or he might not have thought that they were Vireyas. Many of the old Rhododendron people can remember that *Vaccinioides* was a Series in the old classification and that *R. Kawakamii* was a species in that Series.

Species Name	#	Location Grown
abietifolium	0166	EDIN
acuminatum	0082	WA, EDIN, AUST, OR, CA, NZ
aequabile	0090	EDIN AUST OR CA
alticolum	0180	EDIN AUST OR
anagalliflorum	0137	EDIN AUST NZ RSF
arfakianum	0261	AUST
armitii	0119	EDIN RSF
atropurpureum	0191	AUST CA
aurigeranum	0254	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
beyerinckianum	0051	EDIN AUST WA OR CA NZ
blackii	268A	WA AUST OR CA
Bagobonum	0162	EDIN AUST RSF
brookeanum	0276	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ

bryophilum	0044	WA EDIN CA
burttii	155A	EDIN AUST RSF
buxifolium	0192	EDIN AUST NZ
caliginis ?	?41A	AUST
carrii	0118	EDIN AUST
carringtoniae	0110	WA EDIN AUST CA RSF
christi	0200	WA EDIN AUST OR CA
christianae	0247	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
citrinum	0154	EDIN
commonae	0165	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
comptum	0096	AUST
crassifolium	0227	EDIN AUST CA OR NZ RSF
cruttwellii	0114	WA EDIN AUST OR CA
culminicolum	0268	EDIN AUST CA OR NZ WA
culminicolum	0268	WA CA var angienae
cuneifolium	0025	EDIN var of quadrasianum
dianthosmum	0073	WA AUST CA NZ
dielsianum	0047	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
durionifolium	0077	EDIN
ericoides	0019	EDIN WA NZ
exuberans	??	EDIN (what is this?)
fallacinum	0078	WA AUST CA NZ
gardenia	0054	EDIN AUST CA
gaultheriifolium	0005	EDIN
goodenoughii	0129	WA EDIN AUST CA OR
gracilentum	0139	WA EDIN AUST NZ
gracilentum (red)	0139	WA OR CA
guilianettii	0101	AUST
hellwigii	0036	WA OR CA
herzogii	0031	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
himantodes	0075	EDIN
hooglandii	0041	AUST
hyacinthosmum	058A	EDIN AUST OR CA WA
inconspicuum	0183	EDIN AUST CA NZ
intranervatum	0274	EDIN AUST OR CA WA
jasminiflorum	0136	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
jasminiflorum	0136	WA OR NZ var punctatum
javanicum	0225	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
kawakamii	no #	WA OR CA AUST NZ
keditii	0199	EDIN
konori	0056	WA EDIN AUST CA OR NZ
laetum	0248	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
laetum		
(Black&Wood form)	0248	WA
lanceolatum	0259	EDIN AUST
leptanthum	0052	WA EDIN AUST OR CA
leucogigas	0238	EDIN AUST WA CA NZ
lindaueanum	0009	EDIN WA
lineare	0084	EDIN
lochae	244A	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
longiflorum	0250	WA EDIN AUST CA
loranthiflorum	0133	WA AUST OR CA NZ
lowii	0273	WA EDIN OR CA NZ
luraluense	0245	WA AUST CA
luteosquamatum	0182	AUST NZ
macgregoriae	0242	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
maius	0113	AUST CA
malayanum	0080	EDIN AUST CA
maxwellii	0256	EDIN AUST
micromalayanum	080A	EDIN RSF
multicolor	0219	WA EDIN AUST OR

multinervium	0103	WA EDIN CA
neiuwenhuisii	0163	EDIN
nervulosum HYB?	0257	EDIN AUST WA OR CA
nummatum	0004	AUST WA
orbiculatum	0131	WA EDIN AUST OR CA
pachycarpon	0204	AUST
palleum	0003	NZ
pauciflorum	0168	WA EDIN AUST OR CA
perakense	0013	AUST CA
phaeochitum	0050	EDIN AUST WA OR CA RSF
phaeopeplum	0057	WA EDIN AUST CA
planicostatum	0161	EDIN
pleianthum	0116	AUST NZ WA
pneumonantherum	0130	NZ
polyanthemum	0251	EDIN
praetervisum	0268B	EDIN NZ RSF
pseudonitens HYB?	0174	WA RSF
purpureiflorum	0153	AUST
quadrasiaticum	0025	WA AUST OR CA var quad
quadrasiaticum	0025	NZ var borneense
rarum	0042	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ
retivenium	0272	EDIN CA WA OR
retusum	0001	WA EDIN AUST OR CA
rhodoleucum	0121	WA EDIN AUST OR NZ
robinsonii	0217	WA EDIN AUST CA
rubellum	0074	EDIN
rubineiflorum	0137A	EDIN AUST NZ
rugosum	0198	WA EDIN CA OR
rugosum v rugosum	0198	WA CA
salicifolium	0258	EDIN
santapau	no #	EDIN AUST CA NZ
saxifragoides	0148	AUST CA NZ WA
sayeri	0206	AUST CA
scabridibracteum	0249	EDIN AUST CA RSF WA
schoddei	0067	EDIN AUST
scortechinii	0016	NZ
searleanum	116A	EDIN AUST CA WA
sessilifolium	0221	EDIN AUST
sheilae	0167	EDIN RSF
solitarium	0066	WA EDIN AUST OR CA NZ RSF
spondylophyllum	0059	AUST
stapfianum	0107	EDIN NZ
stenophyllum	0150	WA EDIN AUST OR CA RSF
stevensianum	0173A	AUST
suaveolens		
SYN orbiculatum	0131	EDIN CA RSF
sumatranum	0260	AUST WA CA NZ
superbum	0037	WA EDIN AUST CA OR NZ
tuba	0120	WA AUST CA
vaccinioides	no #	WA EDIN
versteegii	0102	AUST CA
verticillatum	0197	EDIN
villosulum	0202	EDIN
vitis idaea	0170	EDIN AUST RSF WA
williamsii	0216	AUST CA
womersleyi	0138	WA EDIN AUST OR NZ
wrightianum	0193	EDIN AUST OR NZ
yelliotii	0094	WA EDIN AUST CA OR
yongii	??	EDIN NZ
zoelleri	0255	WA EDIN AUST OR CA

From Norman Cruttwell

Dear VV,

Papua New Guinea

Oct. 3, 1987

I apologize for not having written for some time, but I have been exceptionally busy and away all last month in Australia after the death of my Mother, aged 93, and after whom Rhododendron Christianae was named. Her first name was Christian.

In the August issue of the Vireya Vine I see that I am referred to as an expert on natural Vireya hybrids. I'm Not really that, but I have had the good fortune in my 41 years of wandering about P.N.G. to have come across more of these than anyone else, as far as I know. I am very interested in Graham Smith's observations. It is often very difficult to determine the parentage of many of the hybrids, though some are obvious. With others there are often several possibilities. Sometimes there are large hybrid swarms (e.g. at Litipinage, E.H.P., with R. mac X dielsianum and R. mac X Zoelleri in which there is a large variation from near one parent or another to completely intermediate. There may have been back-crossing.

Some so-called species may have developed from a cross, which became fertile, and so established itself. A possible example of this is R. tuba (Sleumer), discovered by me on Mt. Dayman, which is intermediate between R. rhodoleucum and R. cruttwellii, and grows in the presence of both, but is far less common. It is only found on this one mountain at between 2500 and 2700m. (8000-9000 Ft.)

To give a small idea of the complexity and extent of this hybridization, here is a list of hybrids seen by me in P.N.G. over the years.

<u>R. macgregoriae</u> X <u>zoelleri</u>	<u>R. herzogii</u> X <u>konori</u>
<u>R. mac</u> X <u>christianae</u>	<u>R. multinervium</u> X <u>culminicolum</u> ?
<u>R. mac</u> X <u>cruttwellii</u>	<u>R. culminicolum</u> X <u>dielsianum</u>
<u>R. mac</u> X <u>inconspicuum</u>	<u>R. dielsianum</u> X <u>rarum</u>
<u>R. mac</u> X <u>dielsianum</u>	<u>R. scabridibracteum</u> X <u>phaeochitum</u>
<u>R. mac</u> X <u>rarum</u>	<u>R. commonae</u> X <u>yelliotii</u>
<u>R. mac</u> X <u>phaeochitum</u>	<u>R. yelliotii</u> X <u>beyerinckianum</u>
<u>R. mac</u> X <u>commonae</u>	<u>R. yelliotii</u> X <u>womersleyi</u>
<u>R. mac</u> X <u>stevensianum</u>	<u>R. atropurpureum</u> X <u>womersleyi</u>
<u>R. christianae</u> X <u>zoelleri</u>	<u>R. leptanthum</u> X <u>inconspicuum</u>
<u>R. aurigeranum</u> X <u>konori</u>	<u>R. gaultheriifolium</u> X <u>womersleyi</u>
<u>R. zoelleri</u> X <u>dielsianum</u>	Total 23.

Hybrids recorded by others (see Sleumer. Flora Malesiana)

<u>R. beyerinckianum</u> X <u>womersleyi</u>	<u>R. leptanthum</u> X <u>gracilentum</u>
<u>R. beyerinckianum</u> X <u>culminicolum</u>	<u>R. Konori</u> X <u>zoelleri</u>
Making 27	

And now Graham Smith has given us two more:

<u>R. christi</u> X <u>stevensianum</u> ?	and	<u>R. atropurpureum</u> X <u>culminicolum</u> ?
Making 29		

And there remain several mysteries on top of these.

Graham's large single bell has me puzzled. We have a Rhodo. in my Park which has straight tubular pink flowers, which does not seem to fit any hybrid, and also a deep rose red tubular, which I think may be R. culminicolum X multinervium, a beautiful and unusual thing. We also have a large tree-like plant which is close to R. mains but is completely distinct from that species as seen on Mt. Wilhelm.

Finally there is the mystery of R. christianae var grandiflora. I have only seen this once about 1950, growing in a gully near Kanasuru, M.B.P. It has flowers twice the normal size, yellow with orange lobes,

but with typical *christianae* foliage. I was amazed to see it again in Mr. G. Stocker's garden at Malanda, North Queensland only a month ago. He said that he got the seed from the ARS (ed. note, which ARS?). Has any one got this magnificent form? It may be a hybrid with *zoelleri*, but I don't think so as I have seen that hybrid and the tube is narrower and the leaves larger. Another mystery. Yet another is the 'Birat Red' from Birat, M.B.P., which I believe some of you are growing. But I must stop.

The Revd. Canon N. Cruttwell  
'Calanthe'  
P.O. Box 961  
Goroka, E.H.P. Papua New Guinea

Editor note; Norman said to me in a letter, that he was puzzled by a reference to Hilda Crouch's article and color photo of her plant of *R. tuba*. He thinks that she must have grown it from his seed or from ARS as an offspring of his seed because only he and Ray Weeks have seen the plant of *R. tuba* in its native habitat. Because there are two (2) ARS's we sometimes get confused. I, E. White, will try to be more careful about the names of the two Societies. I shall try to send Norman a copy of the American Rhododendron Society Journal (Vol. 41 #3, Summer 1987) or at least a copy of that page. Because of the statements in the preceding article he wants to see the photo and says that he has not been down to the area where *R. tuba* grows since 1984. At that time he failed to get into the alpine area due to bad weather.

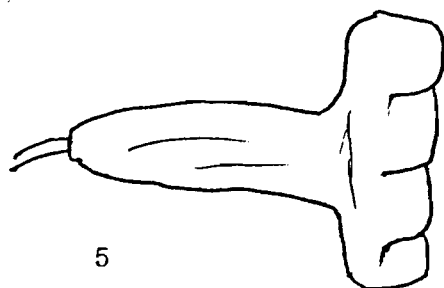
Here in Tacoma, Washington I have a plant of *R. tuba* in bloom right now. It looks exactly like the photo in the American R.S. Journal. The leaves of *R. tuba* I think are distinctive.

Norman also tells me that he has sent a young Papuan to the R.B.G. Edinburgh for botanical and horticultural training. He will work with George Argent among others. If any of you Viners happen to be at the RBG it would be nice to ask about this young man.

There are many mysteries in the plant world. I have a plant in bloom that was labeled *R. hellwigii* which it is not. When Peter Schick was here in October I had another of the same plant in bloom but the flowers aborted and never opened up. Peter said that he thought the plant should be named *R. dianthosmum*, but I do not think that is right either. The flower is much different than anything that I have seen in the past. The flower is pure white, 8mm (3 1/2 ") long, 6mm across the face of the corolla. It has a long straight tubular tube (4mm long) but the lobes flare at 90° up and then another 90° to the front. It has 7 lobes and 14 stamens. The stamens are a beautiful light cream color. The style curves up. The leaves are elliptic and covered with a white or light colored scales on the top and dark dense scales on the bottom. The leaves are rough to the touch as described by Sleumer for *R. dianthosmum*. It has a scent of carnation which is very nice and which is also described by Sleumer. If this is in fact *R. dianthosmum* then it has been around for a long time because that species comes from North New Guinea in the Cycloop Mts.

This could be a very beautiful plant. I have had trouble keeping the flowers on it long enough to open up. The plant that I have in bloom now probably will not open its last flower out of a truss of three.

Here is a simple drawing of the flower. (side view)



I have been asked by many of our members that we again publish the names and address of Vireya Vine subscribers. This has not been done since Bob Badger stopped doing the Vine and it is about time. It is my hope that this list will not get picked up by every seller of every thing and that you all get put onto a bunch of mailing list that you don't want to be on.

Here is the list of the Viners who live outside of the U.S.A. We shall do the U.S.A. list next time

Mr. Herbert Tucker	Fermin Cariola 985 Marco Paz	Tucuman 4107	ARGENTINA SOUTH AMERICA
Mr. Malcolm Baldwin	1054 Mountain Highway	Boronia Victoria 3155	Australia
Mr. S. Begg	37 Diosma Dr.	Glen Waverley Vict. 3150	Australia
Mr. Sam Bornstein	Lot 12 Tulloch St.	Millgrove, Vict. 3799	Australia
Mr. Brian Clancy	31 Renown St.	Bentleigh Vict. 3204	Australia
Mr. George Langdon	5 Hovea Court	Boronia, Victoria 3155	Australia
Mr. Harold W. Lewis	7 Burroughs Rd.	Balwyn Vict. 3103	Australia
Mr. H.B. Malone	R.D. 106 A	Lapoinya Tasmania 7325	Australia
Mr. William Mearns	155 New Mt. Pleasant Rd.	Mount Pleasant N.S.W. 2519	Australia
Mr. Ivan Menzies	33 Anne Crescent	Blaxland N.S.W. 2774	Australia
Mr. Peter Phipps	4 Sturt Close	Kingston Tasmania 7150	Australia
<u>Dr. John Bouse</u>	<u>House 8 Stonehaven Court</u>	<u>Toorak Vict. 3142</u>	<u>Australia</u>
Mr. J. Clyde Smith	15 Cassian St.	Keiraville N.S.W. 2500	Australia
Mr. Graham Snell	970 Mountain Highway	Boronia Vict 3155	Australia
Mr. David Stanton	46 Parrish Ave.	Mt. Pleasant N.S.W. 2519	Australia
Mr. Frank Waghorn	60 Dunloe Ave.	Box Hill Vict. 3129	Australia
Dr. Ben Wallace	Royal Botanic Garden	Sydney, 2000	Australia
Mr. John Wilson	199 Blackburn Rd.	Victoria 33130	Australia
Dr. R.M. Withers	10 Urquart St.	Hawthorn Vict. 3122	Australia
E.J. Cherry	BMB 2117 Greta Rd.	Kulnura N.S.W. 2250	Australia
Mrs. John S. Womersley	82 Richmond Rd.	Westbourn Park So Australia 5041	Australia
Mrs. Ruth Funder	7 Mary Street	Kew Vict. 3101	Australia
Dr. Mark A.E. Nixon	Box 1 Garry Oaks Dr. E.R. 2	Nanouse Bay B.C. VOR 2R0	Canada
Mr. Richard Pearson	1890 W. 17th Ave.	Vancouver BC V6J 2M9	Canada
Mr. Tom Tatum	5285 8 A Ave.	Delta B.C. V4M 1T8	Canada
Mr. Robert G. Wilson 'Director'	San Vito de Java Coto Brus	Costa Rica	Centroamerica
Mr. John Bodenham	Hunters Lodge Wembury Road	Wembury Plymouth PL9 0DL	England
Mr. Chris Brickell - % RBS	P.O. Box 313	Vincent Square SW1P 2PB	London England
The Library 'R.G.B Kew'	Richmond Surrey TW9 3AE		England UK
Nicholas Guyonarc'd	Keramaout - St. Jean	Biec-sur-Belon 29124	France
Mr. Hideo Suzuki	2-8-36 Sakura-cho Kunagaya	Saitama-Ken 360	Japan
Os Blumhardt	Koromika Nursery	R.D. 9 Whangarei	New Zealand
Michael Cullinane	P. O. Box 8 Rose Tree Gdns.	Russell 0293	New Zealand
Prof W.R. & Dr. Malva Philipson	837 Cashmere Rd.	Christchurch 3	New Zealand
Mr. Graham Smith "Pukeiti"	P.O. Box 385	New Plymouth	New Zealand
Evelyn & James Woods	P.O. Box 28	Winton	New Zealand
Rev. Norman Cruttwell 'Curator'	Mt. Gahavisuka Bot Garden	P.O. Box 961, Goroka E.H.P.	Papua New Guinea
Dr. George Argent	Royal Botanic Garden	Edinburgh B43 5LR	Scotland
Mr. Peter Cox	Glendoick	Perth PH2 7NS	Scotland
Mrs. A. McLeod	Box 461	Hilton Natal 3245	South Africa
Leslie Riggall Fern Vally BG	Igwababa Road	Kloof 3610	South Africa
Dr. I.B. Wilson	Cartrefle, Holyhead Rd.	Menai Bridge, Anglesey	North Wales, U K

Please send new names or changes to;  
 E. White Smith, VV Editor  
 4317 No. 18th  
 Tacoma, Wa. 98406  
 U. S. A.

From Mark Nixon  
Dear VV,

Nanoose Bay, BC Canada  
September 4, 1987

We've had a very hot, dry summer here on the east coast of Vancouver Island, but my Vireyas seem to have enjoyed it. I have two plants in bloom at the moment: *R. brookeanum* var. *gracile*, with 6 trusses out and three more still to open, and *R. laetum* X *jasminiflorum* which has three trusses of white, blushed pale pink flowers. This latter looks much like "Princess Alexandra" which is also a *R. jasminiflorum* hybrid (I got it from Greer's in 1984). I don't know if anyone has named the clone yet. The *brookeanum* was one that I picked up for \$2.00 at the ARS convention in 1983 and it has bloomed every summer since '84.

I find that Vireyas are almost ideal patio or deck plants. I give them partial shade under a Garry Oak from the beginning of May to the end of October, when they are brought in to spend the winter on a South facing window sill in the sunroom. This is the coolest part of the house, seldom raising above 60° in the winter. In the hot, dry weather, such as we have had since June, they get watered at the same time as the other plants on the deck, viz. *Maddenii*s, *Hibiscus*, *Fuchsia*'s and so forth. That's 2-3 times a week. Since I use a very open mixture of course fir bark mulch, perlite and coarse peat moss, the water runs out of the pot as fast as it goes in. There's no chance of them getting water-logged. Apart from about a teaspoon of Osmocote 14-14-14 once a year they get no other food. They are all in regular plastic pots but don't get full sun on the pots for more than a few minutes. I have had only one Vireya "die on me". That was a plant of *R. retusum* which came from the RSF in 1984 and just never did well. In general Vireyas are such forgiving plants and as Dick Cavender says on page 146 of the ARS (American Rhododendron Society) Journal Vol 41, #3, "Vireyas will tolerate more rough treatment than any of the others".

Hope that this helps fill a corner of the Vine.

Dr. Mark Nixon  
Garry Oaks Drive  
R.R. 2 Nanoose Bay B.C.  
Canada

Editor note; You are sure right Mark, your letter has helped, If more people don't write we will not have a Vine someday. Thanks.

Mark is sure right about *R. brookeanum*. It is a good plant with always colorful foliage that is very distinctive with it's shiny often redish color. Once you have seen a plant of *brookeanum* you will know it by sight. There are 4 varieties of *R. brookeanum*; var. *brookeanum*, var. *cladotrichum*, var. *gracile* and var. *extraneum*. Dr. Sleumers note on the variety *brookeanum* say's "Introduced to the lowlands of the Malay Peninsula and flowering freely". "Formerly used for crossings, practically out of cultivation by now. Very near to *R. triumphans* Yersin & Chev. from S. Annam, which is mainly distinguished by longer and more slender petioles". From the key used in Sleumers book I can not find very much difference between the varieties. QUESTION. Is there more than the variety 'gracile' in cultivation and who has it.

I put *Rhododendron brookeanum* down as a very good plant that all Vireya nuts should have.

In VV14 I talked about the potting mixes that I was trying this year. These mixes were not to bad but I will need to look at them some more before saying much more. I lost a lot of plants this hot, dry summer but can not say why. E. White Smith

I have come across an "orchid" grower here in Tacoma and shall try to convert him to Vireyas. If you live in this area you might want to send for his catalog. He sells pots, fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides, fir bark in many different sizes, tree fern fiber, perlite, charcoal, pumice in sizes, and all kinds of green house hardware. Write to: All in The family  
And he ships 6101 So. J st.

Phone # (206)472-7435 Tacoma, Wa. 98408

Terms are cash and he will ship. If you have a good source of supplies let me know and I will put it in the Vine.

Norman Cruttwell said in a letter that he hopes to see many of us Viners at the International Conference at Wollongong, Australia in 1988. The Rhododendron Species Foundation is running a tour group and I am also taking a small group to both Australia and New Zealand. If you are interested write to us real soon. Time is wasting and you will have a swell time Down Under. E. White

### WE NEED YOUR LETTERS

WE ALSO NEED NEW NAMES FOR THE VV MAILING LIST. IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE GETTING THE VINE LET ME KNOW. WE DO HAVE A \$10 CHARGE.

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