

Comments on new names for Himalayan bamboos published by J-P Demoly

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After the combination *Yushania maling* (Gamble) McClintock & Stapleton had been sent for publication in newsletter no 15, Jean-Pierre Demoly gave us reprints of some new names which he had recently published in France. One of these was *Yushania maling* (Gamble) J.-P. Demoly in Bull. Ass. Parcs Bot. de France 13:10 (1990), which obviously takes precedence over our combination.

Two other names included in the same publication are *Thamnocalamus murielae* (Gamble) J.-P. Demoly and *Thamnocalamus robustus* (Yi) J.-P. Demoly. David McClintock and I would prefer to recognise the genus *Fargesia* for such species. Whether such species as these are conspecific with *Fargesia spathacea* remains to be properly tested, preferably on the ground in China.

Another interesting new name is for the plant commonly known in horticulture as *Arundinaria* or *Drepanostachyum hookerianum*. He has named this bamboo *Drepanostachyum falconeri* cv. 'Damarapa' in Bull. Ass. Parcs Bot. de France 14 (1991). If I am correct in thinking that the cultivar to which he refers is the same as the plant in the temperate house at Kew donated by Peter Addington, it differs from typical *falconeri* in its yellow and green stripes on the culm, densely proliferating branching at the zenith of each arching culm, the prominent broad white mid-rib on the adaxial leaf surface, and the more truncate leaf sheath ligule.

Demoly's cultivar name Damarapa has Tibetan roots, and he places this cultivar in *Drepanostachyum*. If anybody knows more about the origin of this plant or its flowers it would be of great interest. It certainly is close to the species which is called *falconeri* in the Himalayas. David McClintock and I prefer to call that species *Himalayacalamus falconeri*. I suspect that when the flowers of cv. 'Damarapa' are known it may well turn out to be too different to remain in the species *H. falconeri*.