

Fargesia macclureana - A Tibetan bamboo in Europe

C. M. A. Stapleton

Examination of collections of bamboos of Himalayan origin cultivated in the UK has revealed the presence of plants which appear to represent or to be closely allied to a little known Tibetan species, *Arundinaria macclureana* Bor, in at least two locations in Europe. Bor named this species in honour of Dr. Floyd A. McClure, the well known American bamboo expert. It was collected in flower in several locations around 29°N 94°E at 10,000 - 11,000 ft. altitude by Ludlow, Sherriff & Taylor in 1938, and they may have brought seed back to Europe at that time.

The rhizome, inflorescence structure and vegetative branching pattern show the affinities of *Arundinaria macclureana* Bor to *Fargesia* Franchet, rather than the other temperate Himalayan genera which are now becoming recognised, *Arundinaria* Michaux, *Thamnocalamus* Munro, *Yushania* Keng f., *Himalayacalamus* Keng f., *Chimonobambusa* Makino, and *Chimonocalamus* Hsueh & Yi. It is a clump-forming species with strongly tessellate leaves, finely ridged culms, and well developed leaf-sheath auricles bearing scabrous setae. Collections from plants which appear to be this species have been made by David McClintock in Devon and Holland. However, as good culm sheaths were not collected in Tibet, and flowers have not been found in Europe, it is not possible to be completely certain of its identity.

This attractive species is well suited to horticultural use in the UK, and is expected to be cultivated more widely in the future. A similar species from Bhutan (to be named *Fargesia bhutanensis*) reaches a height of 10m and a dbh of 4.5cm at 10,000 ft, while one from Nepal (to be named *Fargesia emeryi*), locally known as black bamboo, should hopefully have attractively dark culms. To allow the Tibetan species to be referred to more accurately a new combination is given.

***Fargesia macclureana* (Bor) Stapleton comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Arundinaria macclureana* Bor in Kew Bull. 12(3): 420 (1958).

Type: Tibet, Kongbo, Molo, valley of Lilung chu 3,500m, Ludlow, Sherriff, & Taylor 4395 (lectotype BM, chosen here).