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THE BAMBOO GARDEN





PHYLLOSTACHYS NIGRA

THE  
BAMBOO GARDEN

BY

A. B. FREEMAN-MITFORD, C.B.

AUTHOR OF 'TALES OF OLD JAPAN'

*ILLUSTRATED BY ALFRED PARSONS*

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TO

SIR JOSEPH HOOKER, K.C.S.I., C.B., F.R.S.

THIS LITTLE BOOK IS DEDICATED WITH

AFFECTION AND RESPECT



## PREFACE

THIS little book has no scientific pretensions. It is simply an attempt to give a descriptive list, what the French call a *catalogue raisonné*, of the hardy Bamboos in cultivation in this country, and to focus such information in regard to them as could be obtained from Japanese as well as from European sources, and was therefore not readily available to the general public. Some of the matter has already appeared in a series of articles which I published last year in the *Garden* newspaper; but all of these have been revised and corrected, while the descriptions of species have been almost entirely rewritten. The task has not been an easy one, and would have been impossible but for the very kind encouragement and assistance which I have received from Sir Joseph Hooker and Mr. Thiselton Dyer, the director of Kew Gardens. I have also to acknowledge the help so cordially given by Messrs. Nicholson, Watson, and Bean of Kew Gardens. The latter gentleman's articles on Hardy Bamboos which appeared in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1894 contain much valuable information. Some of the chief growers of Bamboos in this country, notably Lord Annesley, Lord de Saumarez, Sir Edmund Loder, the Right Hon. A. Smith-Barry, M.P., and Mr. Rashleigh of Menabilly have very kindly communicated

to me their experiences of Bamboo cultivation in various parts of these islands. M. Latour-Marliac, of Temple-sur-Lot, Lot-et-Garonne, France, the greatest European importer of these plants, has always been most amiably ready to furnish me with the results of his observations. To all of these gentlemen my thanks are due.

Messrs. Rivière's beautifully illustrated book, *Les Bambous*, and the late General Munro's monograph, published in *The Transactions of the Linnean Society*, 15th November 1866, are respectively the French and English classics upon the subject. I have not hesitated to draw largely upon such rich storehouses of knowledge; but since the publication of those works many new species have been discovered, and they are therefore not up to date, otherwise there would be no reason for any further book treating of Bamboos.

One attraction, at any rate, I may claim for my book in the admirable drawings so kindly furnished by Mr. Alfred Parsons, whose life-long devotion to the portraiture of plant life found a new scope in the flora and landscape of Japan, of which his transcripts by pen and pencil have charmed the reading and the artist world of England and America.

24th February 1896.

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#### ERRATA

- P. 14, line 10, for "more productive" read "non-reproductive."  
,, line 28, after "first year" for comma substitute colon.
- P. 40, line 20, for "Colloquois" read "Colloquios."
- P. 90, line 12, for "three sides, there" read "three sides : these."
- P. 93, line 13, after "brilliant" insert "green."
- P. 96, line 6, for "later" read "latter."
- P. 172, line 19, after "leaves" insert "which are tessellated.'

## APPENDIX

### NOTE ON JAPANESE NOMENCLATURE

As Japan must, for obvious reasons, during some years to come, be the principal source of supply of hardy Bamboos, it will be useful to collectors, and especially to nursery gardeners who are beginning to import these plants in large quantities, to have before them a list of such Japanese names as have, up to the present, been identified with their scientific or European equivalents. The list is manifestly and necessarily imperfect, but it is at any rate a first contribution on the subject, which future knowledge will supplement and perhaps rectify, though I believe that, so far as it goes, it is accurate. Where any doubt exists I have indicated it by a mark of interrogation.

BUNGOZASA, syn. GOMAIZASA	= PHYLLOSTACHYS KUMASACA (Munro), BAMBUSA VIMINALIS (French gardens), B. RUSCIFOLIA (Siebold).
C. MADAKÉ, syn. KURODAKÉ, <i>q. v.</i>	
HA-CHIKU	= PHYLLOSTACHYS HENONIS.
HÔRAI-CHIKU, syn. TAIBÔ-CHIKU	= PHYLLOSTACHYS AUREA.
HOTEI-CHIKU	sent out as BAMBUSA STERILIS by Japanese gardeners, apparently the same as PHYLLOSTACHYS AUREA.
KAN-CHIKU	= BAMBUSA MARMOREA.



- KANZAN-CHIKU = *ARUNDINARIA HINDSII* (Munro), *BAMBUSA ERRECTA* (French gardens).
- KIKO-CHIKU, syn. KIMON-CHIKU = *PHYLLOSTACHYS HETEROCYCLA*, *BAMBUSA HETEROCYCLA* (Carrière). (The tortoise-shell Bamboo).
- KIMMEI-CHIKU = *BAMBUSA (PHYLLOSTACHYS) CASTILLONIS* (French gardens).
- KIMON-CHIKU, syn. KIKO-CHIKU, *q. v.*
- KOKUMAZASA = *ARUNDINARIA VEITCHII*.
- KUMAZASA = *BAMBUSA PALMATA*, sometimes also *ARUNDINARIA VEITCHII*, for which, however, *KOKUMAZASA* or "the lesser *KUMAZASA*" is the more appropriate title.
- KURODAKÉ, syn. GOMADAKÉ, KURO-CHIKU = *PHYLLOSTACHYS NIORA*.
- MADAKÉ = (?) *PHYLLOSTACHYS SULPHUREA* (French gardens).
- MÉTAKÉ or MÉDAKÉ = *ARUNDINARIA JAPONICA* (Siebold).
- MÔSÔ-CHIKU or MOUSO-CHIKU = *PHYLLOSTACHYS MITIS*, *PHYLLOSTACHYS EDULIS*.
- NARIHIRADAKÉ = *ARUNDINARIA SIMONI* (Carrière).
- OROSHIMA-CHIKU (?) = *BAMBUSA DISTICHA*.
- SHIBO-CHIKU, syn. SHIWA-CHIKU = *PHYLLOSTACHYS MARLIACEA* (French gardens).
- SHIHO-CHIKU }  
SHIKAKU-DAKÉ } = *BAMBUSA QUADRANGULARIS*.
- SUO-CHIKU = *BAMBUSA ALPHONSE KARBI*, a variegated form (pink and green) of *BAMBUSA NANA* (Roxburgh), not hardy in this country.
- SUDZU-DAKÉ = *BAMBUSA SENANENSIS* (differing from the other species also called *B. SENANENSIS*, which is *YAKIBAZASA* = *Arundinaria Veitchii*), not known at present in this country.
- TAIBÔ-CHIKU = *HORAI-CHIKU, q. v.*
- TAIHO-CHIKU = *BAMBUSA VITTATA ARGENTEA* (French gardens), a silver variegated variety of *BAMBUSA NANA* (Roxburgh), not hardy in this country.
- TAIMIN-CHIKU = *ARUNDINARIA HINDSII*, var. *GRAMINEA* (Kew), *BAMBUSA GRAMINEA* (French gardens).

TAISAN-CHIKU	a tropical Bamboo (? <i>B. VULGARIS</i> ) acclimated in the hotter parts of Japan where it only puts forth shoots in late summer. Not hardy in this country.
YADAKÉ	= <i>PHYLLOSTACHYS BAMBUSOIDES</i> . ( <i>N.B.</i> —Plants received from Japanese nurseries have not proved true to name.)
YAKIBA-ZANA (see also SUDZU- DAKÉ)	= <i>BAMBUSA SENANENSIS</i> , not to be distinguished from <i>ARUNDINARIA VEITCHII</i>

In time, when more consignments shall have been received from Japan, it will be easy to identify all the Japanese names with their European equivalents. The difficulty of doing so at present lies in the fact that formerly when plants were received their Japanese labels were lost or destroyed as valueless by European nurserymen who, of course, were unable to decipher them; so the Bamboos were sent out under improvised and often inappropriate names, unless indeed they had the good fortune to be named by a skilled botanist, when some fitness of nomenclature was observed. Another stumbling-block has been the great number of provincial and even local names in Japan itself, while a third crux has been created by the native nurserymen, who have not always been over-scrupulous in sending out plants true to name. Perhaps, however, it is hardly to be wondered at that in a family where the distinctions are often exceedingly minute and inconspicuous, there should be almost the same confusion among nursery gardeners in the East as in the West. The great impetus which has been given to the cultivation of Bamboos in Europe during the last few years will, it may be hoped, be an encouragement to greater accuracy among the Japanese growers in future.

It must be borne in mind that TAKÉ (in composition,

after a vowel sound, *DAKÉ*) is a pure Japanese word signifying Bamboo. *CHIKU* is a Japanese corruption of the Chinese word *CHU*, Bamboo. The former of these is applied only to the tall or arboreous Bamboos. The latter is generic and is used for dwarfs and giants alike. *SASA*, in composition *ZASA*, is a Japanese corruption of the two Chinese words *Hsiao CHU*, signifying small Bamboo, and is only applied to the dwarf species of Professor Sargent's "forest floor." I have alluded to this before, but it may be convenient to repeat it here.



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