



‘Peerless Flowering Trees - the Asiatic Aristocrats’

Maurice Foster, IDS Wespelaar, April 13th 2024



M. campbellii, Borde Hill

M. campbellii, Lanhydrock




MAGNOLIA CAMPBELLII, HOOK.

“The purple kind ...forms an immense but very ugly, black barked and sparingly branched tree.... it puts forth from the ends of its branches great rose-purple, cup shaped flowers, whose fleshy petals strew the ground.”

Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker

Hooker's first coloured plate of
M. campbellii, 1855

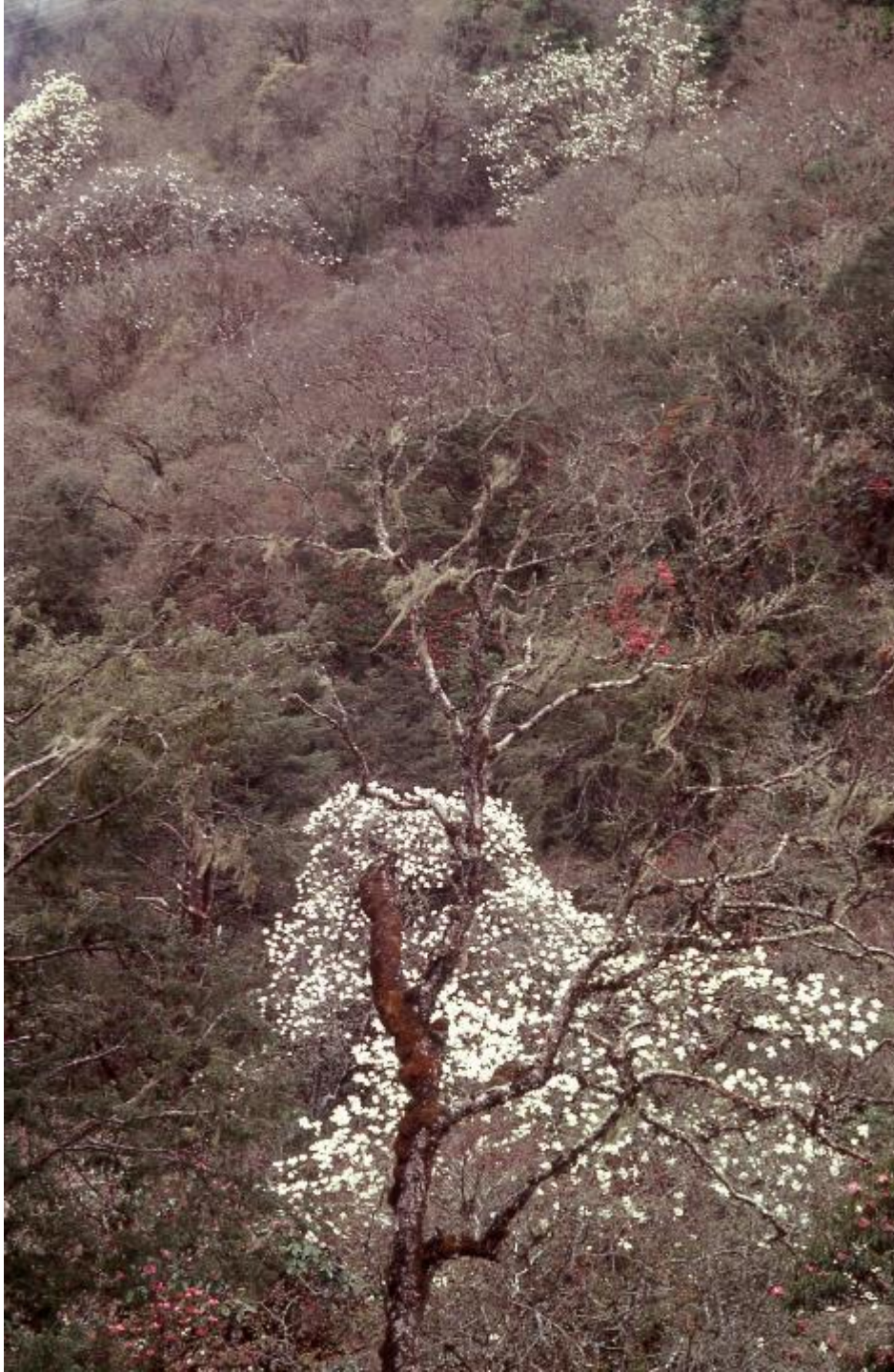


BUT white form was described in Griffith's diaries in 1838, ten years before Hooker's publication



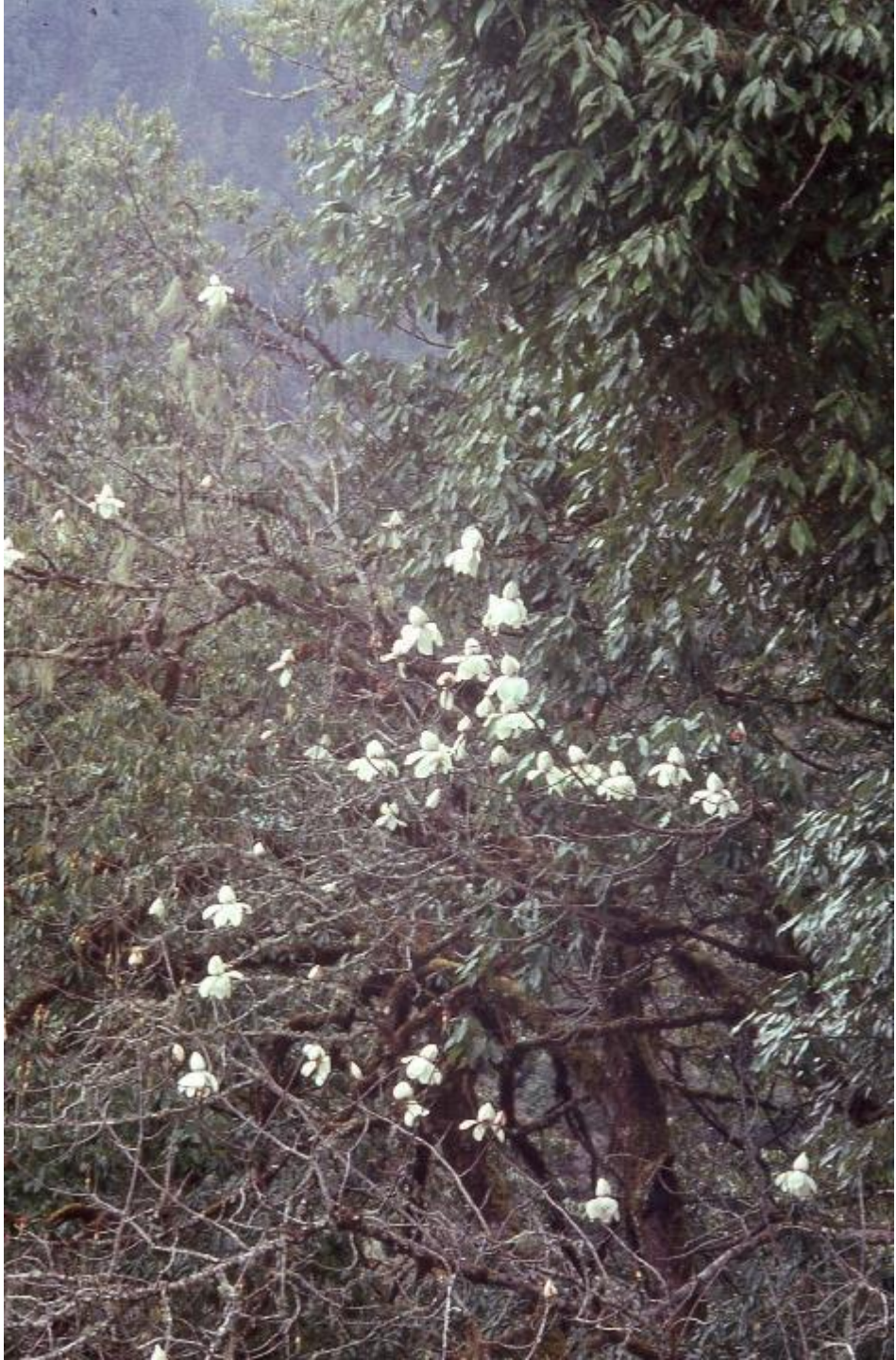
'...and a very fine sight indeed in full bloom (cream) and very common'.

Sherriff and Hicks, 1936



'many trees of the huge white flowered Magnolia campbellii around 100ft tall... in magnificent flower, forming a vivid white streak along the hillside.'

Ludlow and Sherriff, 1937



‘There are no pink forms in Nepal....

....[but there is] ‘a pink flowered form ***cultivated*** around Darjeeling’.

Polunin and Stainton, *Flowers of the Himalaya*,
1984

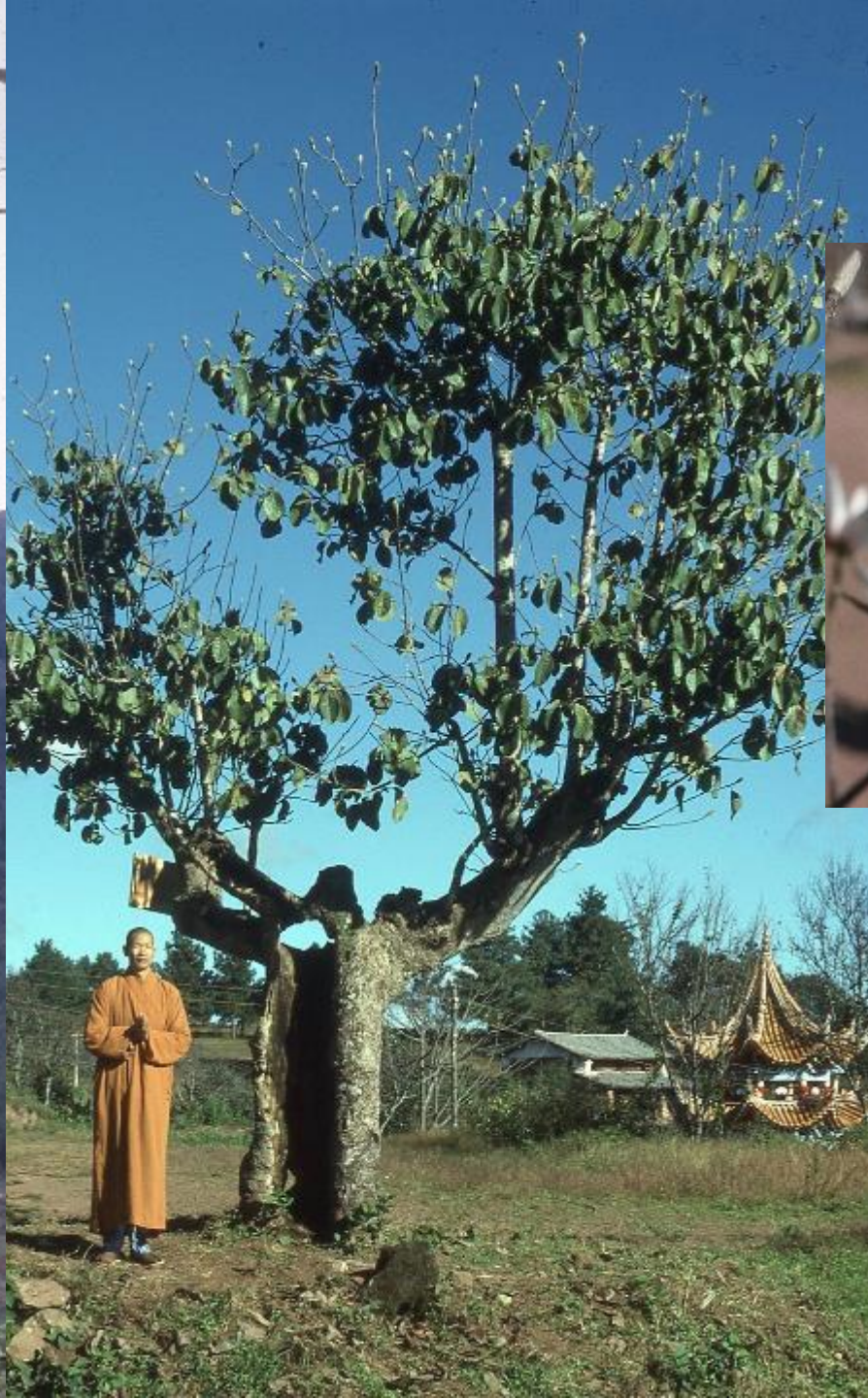
‘Not one pink form seen in three weeks of trekking through Bhutan in 1989’

Maurice Foster, 1989





The monastery precinct,
Ghante Gompa, Bhutan



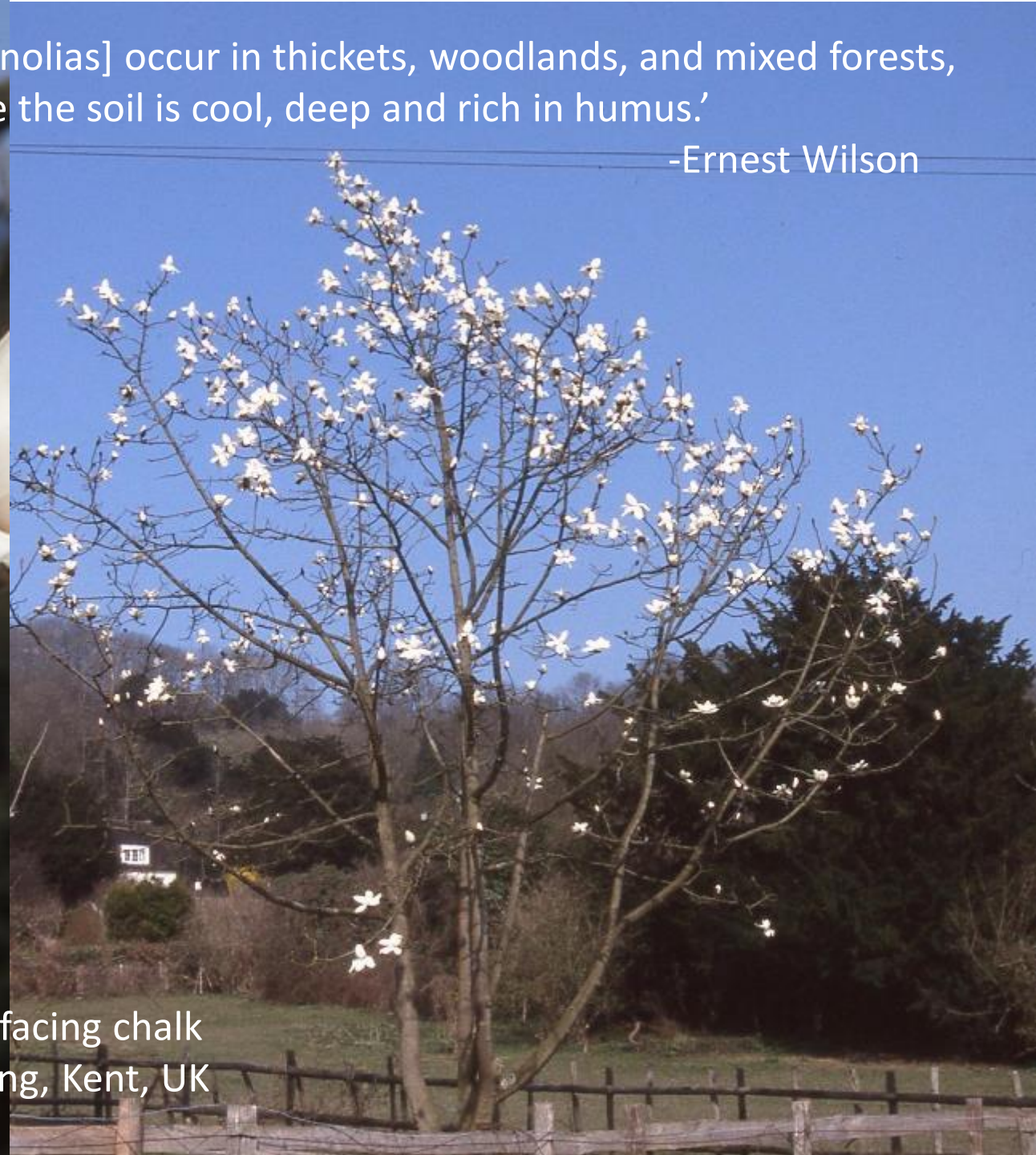
Zixishan temple
mountain – a Himalayan
plant in China

‘[Magnolias] occur in thickets, woodlands, and mixed forests, where the soil is cool, deep and rich in humus.’

-Ernest Wilson



M. campbellii Alba Group grown on South-facing chalk hillside, in full sun and cropped turf. Kemsing, Kent, UK







Bhutan, 1989: a pale yellow
form of *M. campbelli*



Peter Cox's evidence of a yellow form of *M. campbellii* in Arunachal Pradesh

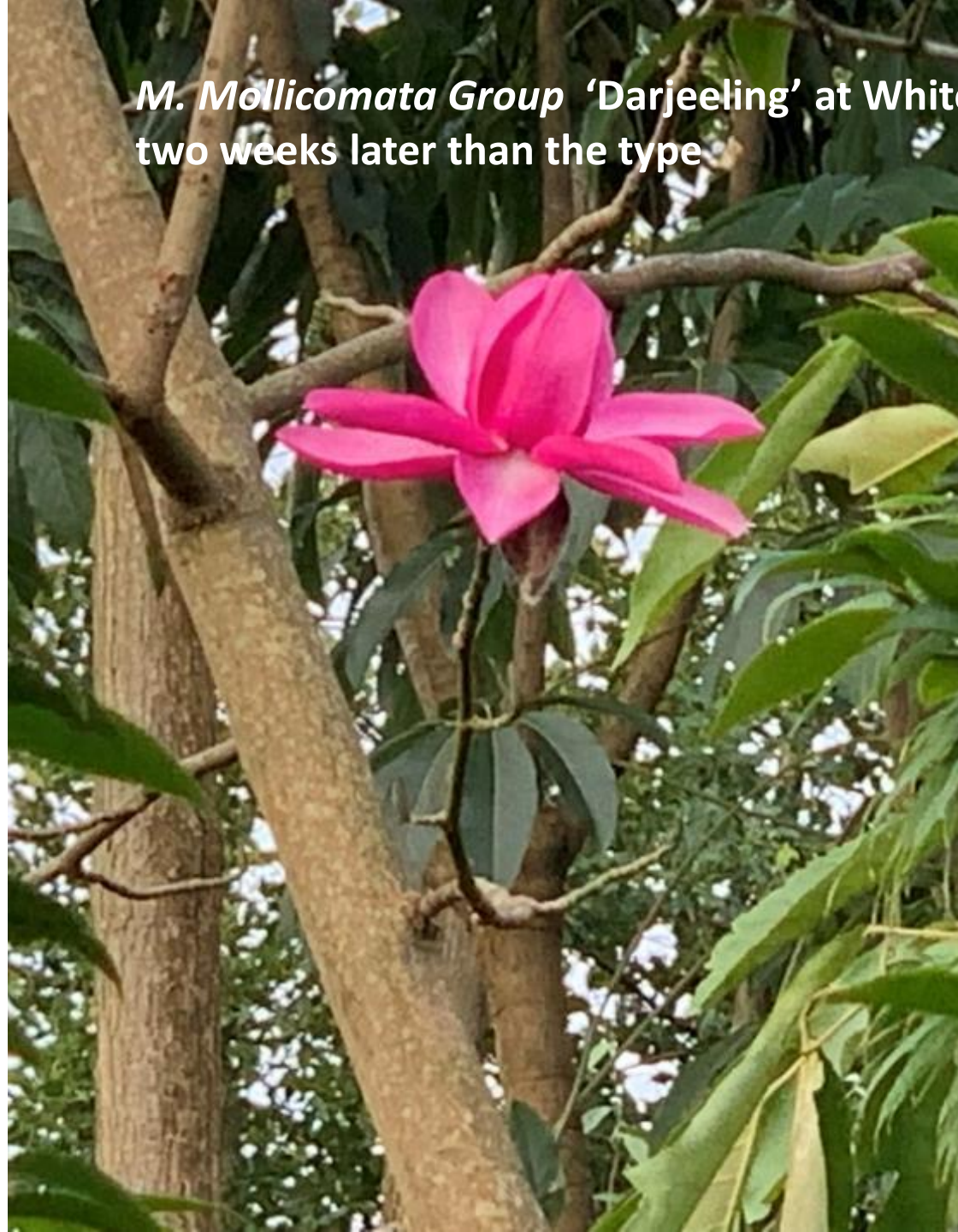


A yellow form of *M. campbellii*



Left – Upper Salween, N. W. Yunnan at White House Farm; Right - George Forrest's collection, Mekong, W. Yunnan, at Caerhays

M. Mollicomata Group 'Darjeeling' at White House Farm:
two weeks later than the type





M. campbellii Mollicomata Group 'Peter Borlase'



M. Campbellii Mollicomata Group
'Betty Jessel'



M. campbellii Mollicomata Group

'Lanarth'

M. campbellii Mollicomata
Group

'Werrington'





M. campbellii
Mollicomata
Group

'Trewidden Belle'



M. x Raffilli Group

'Charles Raffill' at Windsor



M. sargentiana robusta Caerhays dark form





M. sargentiana robusta (left) vs *M. sargentiana* 'Blood Moon' (right)



M. 'Premier Cru' at WHF



An unnamed
M. dawsoniana
sdlg at WHF

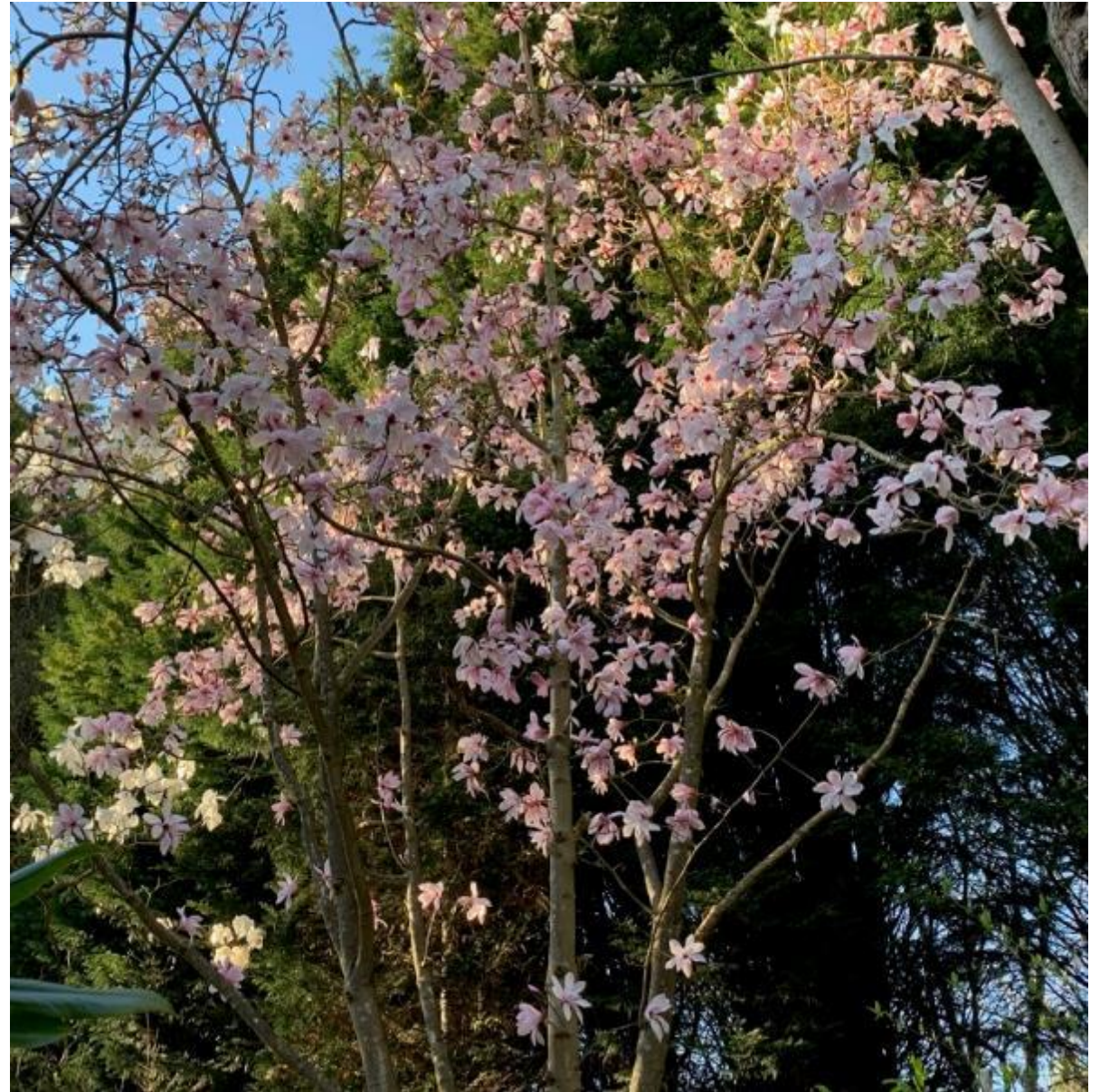




Unnamed *M. dawsoniana* sdlg at WHF

3 different *M. dawsoniana* sdlg blooms at WHF – consistent colour and shape





M. dawsoniana 'Clarke' at WHF



M. dawsoniana 'Clarke'

M. dawsoniana 'Chyverton' at Lanhydrock





SM. sprengeri 'Diva' at Caerhays (Wilson 688)



M. sprengeri
'Copeland Court'
at WHF





M. sprengeri form 'Lanhydrock'

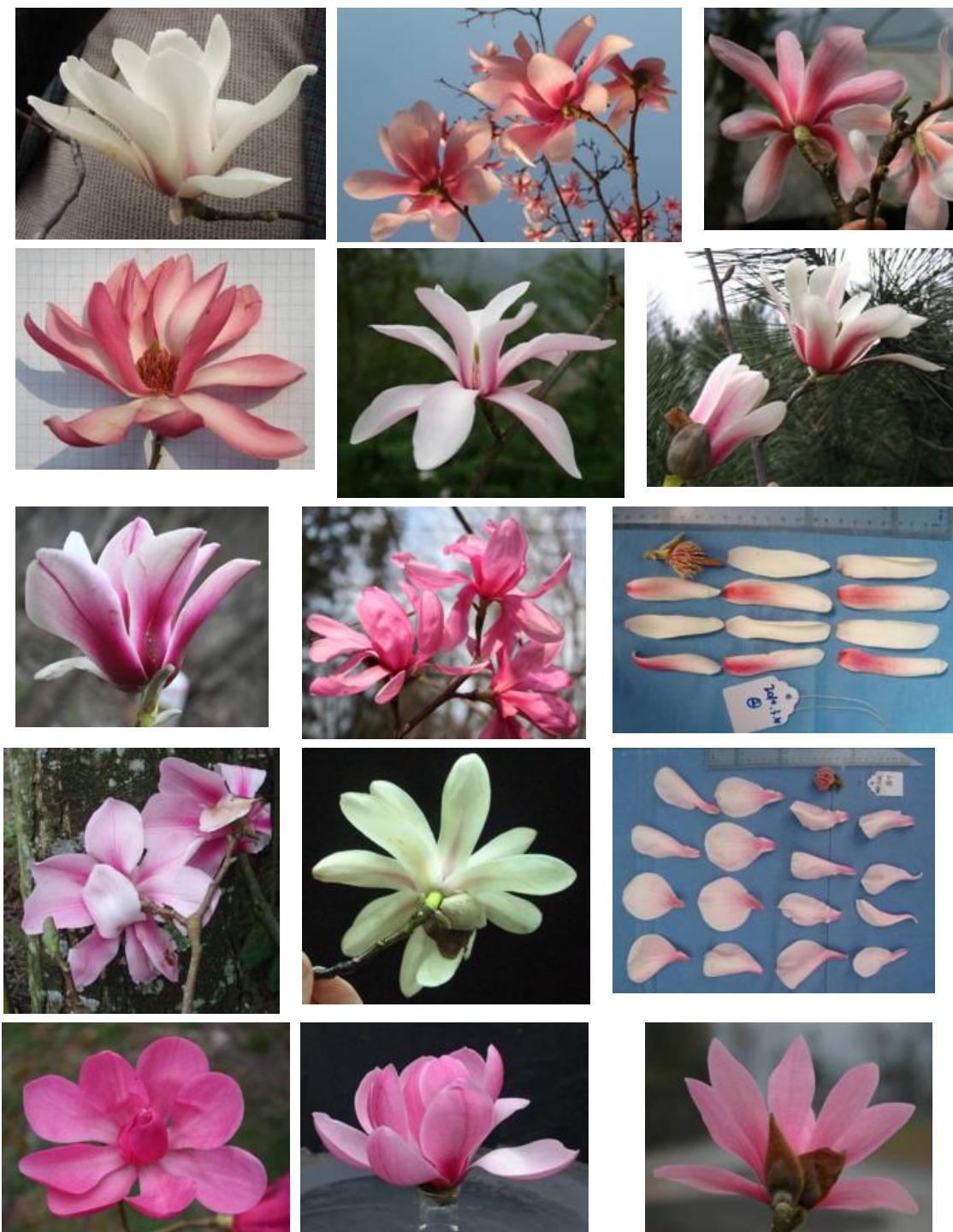


M. sprengeri Ness form (at WHF)

M. sprengeri 'Claret Cup' (at WHF)



Incredible variety in wild *M. sprengeri*



'*Magnolia sprengeri* Pamp.: Morphological variation and geographical distribution'

Yongxiang Kang & Erland Ejder

in *Plant Biosystems Jnl*, Oct 2011, p. 914



Erland Ejder with

M. sprengeri var *sprengeri*
'Cutie'

Shaanxi, China

Images courtesy Erland Edjer

M. sprengeri var *diva* 'High Haven'

Hubei, China



'High Haven' at WHF,
blooming for first time
in 2024

M. sprengeri var *diva*
'Dusty Pink'





M. sprengeri var *diva*
'Dusty Pink', held by
doctoral student Yang
Mei, Hubei



M. sprengeri var sprengeri 'Cliffhanger'

Shaanxi, China



M. 'Westonbirt Hope' at WHF

