RHS Find a Plant: using taxonomy to provide a globally unique knowledge bank on gardening and garden plants

Rupert Wilson, Principal Data Manager, Science and Collections, RHS
introduction

- www.rhs.org.uk/findaplant

- Origins
- Establishment
- Publishing/outputs
- Now and the future
- Summing up

Last twelve months
850 thousand unique visits
4.1 million unique page views
2 min 42 sec average time on page
origins
establishment: growing our names

Database growth

Sources of new names
Plant Finder, living collections, plant trials, new plants featured in *The Garden*, plants offered on RHS Plant Centres, ICRAs

Names breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A - accepted</td>
<td>165,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T - tentative</td>
<td>55,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S - synonym</td>
<td>46,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U - unchecked</td>
<td>36,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O - orthographic variant</td>
<td>8,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P - preferred selling name (trade designation)</td>
<td>8,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N - not found in literature</td>
<td>2,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I - invalidly published</td>
<td>1,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M - manuscript</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LH - later homonym</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NN - nomen nudum</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP - pro parte synonym</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
establishment: datasets incorporated

- Plant Finder
  - names and suppliers
- Living collections
  - Wisley, Rosemoor, Hyde Hall, Harlow Carr, National Collections, Champion trees (TROBI)
- Preserved collections
  - herbarium specimens, nomenclatural standards, award paintings, 35mm transparencies
- RHS awards including AGM and exhibition awards
- Index to *The Garden, The Plantsman, Orchid Review*
- Germplasm – RHS member’s seedlist
- data is linked to a unified list of names
publishing/outputs: books

**Production timetable**

- **Sept**: Questionnaires dispatched
- **31 Dec**: Closing date for returns
- **end Jan**: Stop changes to database and generate 1st proof
- **end Feb**: 2nd proof sent to printers
- **April**: Book published
publishing/outputs: CD-ROM
publishing/outputs: (early) web
Our knowledge in one place

- Nomenclatural taxonomy
- Plant descriptions
- Horticultural knowledge
- Cultivation / husbandry
- Plant health
- Images
- Suppliers

Passiflora caerulea
blue passion flower

Other common names
blue passion flower
blue passion flower
see more...

Synonyms
Passiflora caerulea
Passiflora caerulea

Features
Passiflora are mostly tender tendril-climbing shrubs, with simple or palmately lobed, generally evergreen leaves and racemose flowers of collective,. With often coloured, usually filaments, followed by conspicuous fruits, edible in some species.

Family
Passifloraceae

Details
P. caerulea is a vigorous large deciduous or semi-evergreen climber with trailing tendrils. Leaves dark green, with 5-7-lobed, lobes. Flowers blue or liocarpus. Fruits oval, dcm, orange

Plant range
Subtropical

Characteristics

- Characteristics
  - Flowering: Semi-evergreen
  - Habit: Climbing
  - Toxicity: Ingestion may cause severe discomfort
  - Hardiness: Red

- Sunlight: Full Sun

- Aspect: South-facing or West-facing

- Exposure: Sheltered

- Size: Ultimate height 8-12 metres
  - Ultimate spread 2-5-6 metres
  - Time to ultimate height 5-10 years

- Soil: Moist but well-drained

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publishing/outputs: kiosks
publishing/outputs: Hillier manual (2014)
Nomenclatural Standard of Dahlia cultivar 'Ryecroft Jim' [family ASTERACEAE]

Herbarium: Royal Horticultural Society (WSY), WSY0100327
Collection: Herbarium Specimens
Resource Type: Specimens
Collector: Not on sheet
Collection date: 2007/9/11
Country: Unknown
Identification: Nomenclatural Standard of Dahlia cultivar 'Ryecroft Jim' [family ASTERACEAE]
Notes: 105 x 120 cm. Flowers c. 100 cm wide, ray florets base yellow (c. 1B), becoming red (45B-C), pink (67A), apex (72D); disc florets often tubular, yellow (3B). Stamens golden yellow (21A). Lvs green (147A). Stem green (146B), tendency to greyed purple flushing

Pages: 1
Data last modified: 2011-09-16

Related materials: Tropicos
Dahlia not on sheet

2,741 on JSTOR
Multisite Searches

The data available from this page are extracted from the on-line Living Collections and conservation databases at the sites shown below. **You can simultaneously search as many of these databases as you wish.** Simply check the box next to the site or sites that you wish to query.

You can select multiple sites by category using the buttons below.

Scientific or common name

- RHS The Royal Horticultural Society Gardens
- RBGE Herbarium Catalogue
- Phipps Conservatory and Botanic Gardens
- The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
- The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
- Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
- Holdian Arboretum
- The New York Botanical Garden
- The Desert Botanical Garden

Enter one or more words from the scientific or common name (excluding authorities or cultivar indicators eg. cv).

Entries can be either upper case or lower case.

Either * or ? can be used as wildcard characters at the end of any search values. For example to search for all values starting with Gent, enter gent* or gent?

Multiple search criteria should be separated by a comma. For example to lookup Gentiana acaulis L., enter:
Botanic Gardens Conservation International
BGCI provides a global voice for all botanic gardens, championing and celebrating their inspiring work. We are the world’s largest plant conservation network, open to all. Join us in helping to save the world’s threatened plants.

Welcome to PlantSearch!

Plant Search
The only global database of living plant, seed and tissue collections:
- Search 1,286,579 collection records, representing 451,431 taxa, at 1,092 contributing institutions
- Locate threatened, rare, medicinal and other plant species in living collections
- Connect with living collections to aid your conservation, education and research efforts

Enter search criteria below (all fields optional)

Scientific name: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
Genus Species Intraspecific Epithet

Exclude cultivar names
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>No Records</th>
<th>Full register last published</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clematis</td>
<td>7,793</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conifers</td>
<td>4,865</td>
<td>1987-98 (part register)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dahlia</td>
<td>35,316</td>
<td>1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delphinium</td>
<td>4,270</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianthus</td>
<td>42,824</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily</td>
<td>14,186</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcissus</td>
<td>31,354</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchid</td>
<td>185,617</td>
<td>2013 (3 year Sanders List)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhododendron</td>
<td>33,228</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Now & future: knowledge bank

- Add 1,900 new entities to Find a Plant
- Extend Plant Finder content
Summing up

- Extensive interlinked datasets around the backbone of RHS published names.
- Names actively used and constantly tested by plantsman and gardeners
- Consistency in the use of plant names across the RHS from labels, online or in books, journals and magazines
- Surface our plant name IDs and work with others to enable better linkage