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10<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Charles

Following on from my letter of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (better late than never!!!) but I am so sorry to have taken so long over this but *Symplocos* are not easy and can be quite variable, especially those with a wide distribution.

1). The orange dots on the enclosed map show your plants of *S. dryophila* Clarke which occurs in SW China, Bhutan, India (Darjeeling), Sikkim, Nepal, Burma, Thailand and Vietnam. It occurs at 1850-3200 m asl. A shrub to small tree to 12 m, with stout twigs and large terminal buds. Leaves large, quite thick and leathery. Flowers in dense racemes. Has it fruited with you yet? Have you still got three plants and if so have I seen the one near location 14?

Hillier & Sons sent flowering material [Spec. B] to Kew for identification in April 1967 [ no source known] but it never appeared in their catalogues/manuals. David Hunt also collected flowers from Caerhays in 1971.

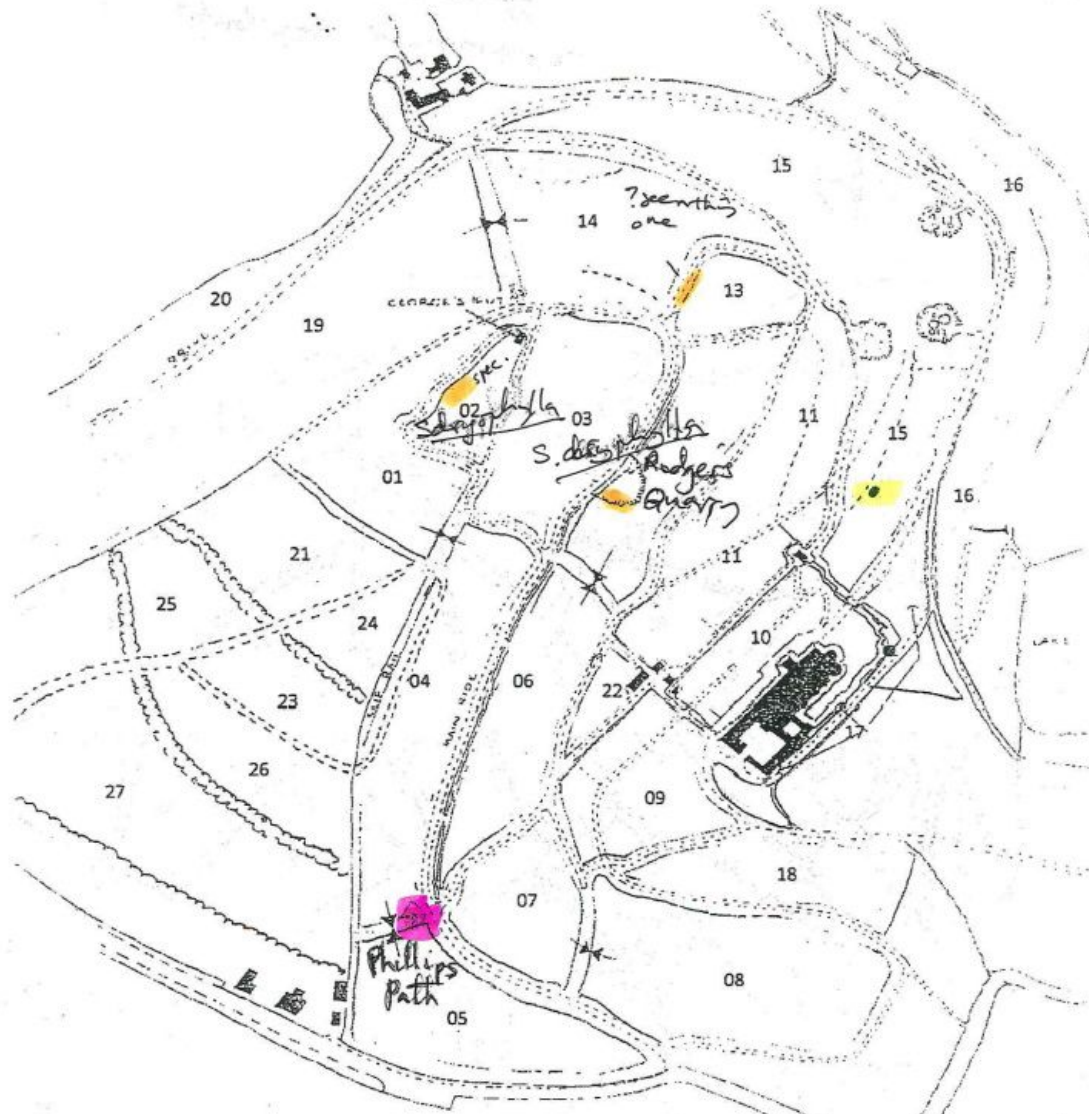
2). As for the plant beside Philip's Path, I have after much thought and angst decided that it is *S. aff. sumuntia* D. Don, which occurs China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. It occurs from 100-2400 m asl and so I presume your plant came from a high altitude source. It is a highly variable taxon with a very large list of synonyms. It differs from the above in its much thinner twigs and small terminal buds.

According to the *Proceedings of the RHS Scientific Committee* 94(II) 1969: 63 material of *S. glomerata* [Forrest 24082] was shown before the Committee on 29/4/1969. They described it as an unusual half-hardy shrub. It was shown to Committee B by your father earlier that same day and it was not known to have flowered in the UK before.

Hillier & Sons sent flowering material of unknown source to Kew [as Spec. A] in April 1967, while Lewis Palmer sent flowers of *S. sumuntia* from Caerhays in March 1960 to Kew. David Hunt collected flowering material of *S. glomerata* from Caerhays in 1971. All the above material appears to match your plant beside Philip's Path, which I collected in April 2006 and April 2011. Did your plant ever produce fruits?

Yours sincerely





Caerhays



- Symphorus paniculata*.
- " *dogophylla*.
- S. aff. summita* Beside Phillips path see yr letter 5 July 2011