



Ericaceae

219. *Rhododendron ponticum* L., Sp. Pl. ed. 2: 562 (1762).

Syn.: *R. lancifolium* Moench.

Larger evergreen **shrub** of a rounded shape, 1-6 m, with brown reddish bark. **Leaves** oblong lanceolate, acuminate, 9-25 cm long, leathery, paler underneath, shortly petiolate.

Flowers in cymes with peduncles 2-5 cm long; corolla violet rose to pale rose, 4-5 cm long, funnel-form. Seed **capsules** cylindrical, glabrous, 1.5-1.8 cm long. **Fl.** -VI-VII. **Fr.** -VII-VIII.

Habitat: Open deciduous forests from lowlands to subalpine zone, up to 2000 m.

Distribution: W. Caucasus, W. Transcaucasia, Adjaria, N.E. Turkey.

General distribution: Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria, Asia Minor, Lebanon.

Cultivation: No special requirements; weedy in the British Isles.



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220. *Rhododendron ungerii* Trautv. in Act. Hort. Petrop. 9: 514 (1884).

Large evergreen **shrub**, 3-6 m, with brown bark and light triangular leaf prints; young branches white tomentose.

Leaves ovate, cuneate to the base, acuminate, 12-22 cm long, 35-75 mm wide, leathery, white tomentose underneath, shortly petiolate. **Flowers** 15-20 in cymes with peduncles 2-5 cm long; corolla white or slightly creamy, outside reddish pubescent, 3-3.5 cm long, bell-form. Seed **capsules** cylindrical, rusty glandulose hairy 1.2-1.5 cm long. **Fl.** V-VII. **Fr.** VII-VIII.

Habitat: Open deciduous forests from hills to subalpine zone, 700-1700 m.

Distribution: Tertiary relic in Adjaria and adjacent N.E. Turkey. Endemic.

Cultivation: In peat like other Rhododendrons.



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221. *Rhododendron smirnovii* Trautv. in Act. Hort. Petrop. 9: 513 (1884).

Smaller evergreen **shrub**, 1-1.5 m, with grey bark, young branches densely white tomentose. **Leaves** narrowly elliptic, blunt, 8-15 cm long, 25-35 mm wide, younger tubular, bent downwards, older leathery, prominently white tomentose underneath, shortly petiolate. **Flowers** 10-14 in cymes with 2-5 cm long peduncles; corolla bright carmine purple, tube scattered pubescent, 3.5-4 cm long, bell-form. Seed **capsules** cylindrical, white tomentose when young, 1.5-2 cm long. **Fl.** V-VII. **Fr.** VII-VIII.

Habitat: Open forests on hills and mountains to 1200 m.

Distribution: Tertiary relic in Artvin region in Turkey, probably also in Adjaria. Endemic.

Cultivation: In peat like other Rhododendrons.



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222

219. Russia: Colchic forests of the western Caucasus near Babuk Aul, 1400 m, Roman Businský.

220. Georgia: Matchakhela valley in Adjaria, 950 m, Andreas Gröger.

221. Russia, from cultivation: Botanical garden of the Moscow State University, Moscow, 200 m, Evgeni A. Tarasov.



222 a



222 b



222 c



222 d

222. *Rhododendron caucasicum* Pall., Fl Ross. 1: 46, t. 31 (1784). Small evergreen **shrub**, 0.2-1 m high, with prostrate ascending branches and dark brown bark. **Leaves** oblong elliptic, blunt or pointed, 4.5-12 cm long, 1.8-4.0 cm wide, older leathery, glabrous, finely reticulate on top, rusty pubescent underneath, shortly petiolate. **Flowers** in cymes with peduncles 2-4 cm long; corolla white creamy, yellowish or pink, 2.5-3 cm long, open bell-form, inside glandulose to a half of the tube. Seed **capsules** cylindrical, rusty tomentose, 1.5 cm long. **Fl.** VI-VIII. **Fr.** VIII-IX.
Habitat: From open forests around tree-line to upper alpine zone, 1600-3000 m.
Distribution: Caucasus main range (absent in easternmost part), W. & C. Transcaucasia, N.E. Turkey. Euxine mountain element.
Cultivation: In humus-rich organic and peaty soil.

222 a,b. Russia: near Arkhyz in W. Caucasus, 2500 m, Konstantin A. Koržavin.
 222 c. Russia: Mt. Elbrus region, 2500 m, Michael Almond.
 222 d. Georgia: Trialeti, 2300 m, V.H.