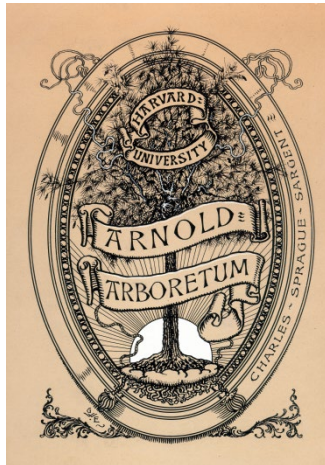


Archives II G-1

Flora of China Project records, 1953-1957: Guide.



The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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Flora of China Project records, 1953-1957: Guide.

Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

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Descriptive Summary

Repository: Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

Call No.: II G-1

Location: Archives.

Title: Flora of China Project records, 1953-1957.

Date(s): 1953-1957

Creator: Office of the Director, Arnold Arboretum.

Quantity: 3 linear inches

Language of material: Primarily English, some Chinese.

Abstract: The Flora of China Project records, 1953-1957 collection was created by Arboretum directors and botanists during the Flora of China project. It is composed primarily of correspondence and reports written by participating botanists. The goal of the project was to compile a comprehensive flora of Chinese plants. The date range covered by the materials is 1953-1957.

Note: Access to Finding Aid record in [HOLLIS](#).

Preferred Citation: Flora of China Project records. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Additional Material: Additional Shiu-ying Hu correspondence may be found by searching the [Arnold Arboretum Correspondence Database](#).

Processing Information

Liz Francis, May 2011. Historical Note written by Sheila Connor. Revised by Larissa Glasser, 2023, 2024.

Acquisition Information

Provenance: This collection was transferred from the Arnold Arboretum's departmental holdings to the Arboretum's Archives in 2010.

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Historical Note

In the early 1950s the Continental Development Foundation was established by a group of young engineers and businessmen. In the summer of 1952, the Foundation, with the cooperation of the China Institute in America, launched its First Annual Project Suggestion Contest which was directed to Chinese scholars and businessmen and posed the question "What can we do here that would be of permanent value in the reconstruction of future China?"



Forty-three essays were submitted, and on November 1, 1952, the first prize of \$300.00 was awarded to Dr. Shiu-ying Hu of the Arnold Arboretum for her essay "The Problem of the Preparation of a Flora of China." In support of her application, Karl Sax, Arboretum director 1946-1954, described her as "one of the most competent and industrious students I have ever known" ¹

The Foundation presented the project to the Trustees of China International Foundation which provided funding for the project. In April 1953, Harvard, and in collaboration with the Arnold Arboretum under the directorship of Karl Sax, accepted the offer of the China International Foundation to finance the undertaking and the project began in July.

¹ Figure 1: Shiu-ying Hu with *Hemerocalles* planting on Bussey Hill Road. Unknown photographer. June 1956

In July 1953, under the directorship of Richard A. Howard, Hu became an Arnold Arboretum Research Associate devoting her full time to the Flora of China Project. In addition to Hu, others that worked on the project at the Arnold Arboretum included: Dr. Richard Howard provided overall guidance, Dr. Yu-Chen Ting, Dr. Su-Ying Liu, and Dr. Ding Hou. Stella Whitehouse, the Administrative Secretary of the Arboretum and Margaret Lafavour and Norma Hurley were technical typists.

Professor Hu graduated from Ginling College in Nanking in 1933 then attended Lingnan University in Canton (formerly Canton Christian College) as a graduate student in botany, with an assistantship in the herbarium. She received her Master of Science degree from Lingnan University in 1937. Because of the war with Japan, Lingnan University relocated to Chengdu, where West China Union University, also a missionary college, became host to several refugee colleges. Hu had conducted fieldwork in western Sichuan in the late 1930s and early 1940s, at a time when only a few men (notably, Armand David, Joseph Rock, and E Wilson) had explored that region. At West China Union University continued her field studies and taught courses in botany and was also elected president of the International Women's Club. The vice president of the club was a Radcliffe graduate and applied to her alma mater for a fellowship for Hu.

In 1946, she was offered a graduate fellowship for a doctorate program at Radcliffe College under Professor E. D. Merrill, then Director of the Arnold Arboretum. Her doctoral dissertation on the genus *Ilex* (Aquifoliaceae) was carried out at the Arnold Arboretum under the direction of E. D. Merrill, director of the Arboretum 1935-1946. After obtaining her degree in 1949 she became a herbarium assistant at the Arboretum. By the time Dr. Hu obtained her doctorate, just three years after her arrival, she began an account of the flora of China.²



The project was to be completed in three stages: a compilation of an index to the Chinese flora; the publication of an enumeration of the flora of China; and the preparation of the flora by families with descriptions, keys, citations of important literature and specimens examined. Although much progress was made in three and a half years, especially in the creation of an index of the published records and older literature searches, in January 1957 Richard A. Howard, Director of the Arboretum, determined that the possibility of securing long-range financial backing necessary for the enormous undertaking of the completion of a comprehensive flora was unlikely and the project was terminated.

² Figure 2. Shiu-ying Hu. Emily Wood. n.d.

Although Hu official retired from the Arnold Arboretum on June 30, 1976, she continued writing floristic treatments, serving as hostess to Chinese visiting scholars, sharing her broad knowledge of the plant world and her famous Chinese dinners with staff and students alike. In 1992, the Holly Society of America established The Shiu-ying Hu Award to honor Dr. Hu for her lifetime study of the taxonomy of the genus *Ilex*. Dr. Hu was the first recipient of the award. In 2008, Hu was the first recipient of the American Botanical Council Lifetime Achievement Award. As Honorary Professor of Chinese Medicine at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Senior College Tutor of Chung Chi College and Emeritus Senior Research Fellow of Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University in 2000, Harvard Papers in Botany Vol. 5, No. 1 was dedicated to Dr. Hu and on February 19, 2000 she was honored at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with a special symposium and birthday celebration Sponsored by the Ma Man Fai Chinese Medicine Education Foundation Fund. ³

Chi-wu Wang's (1913-1987) Prospectus for the Chinese Flora Project was produced while he was at the Harvard Forest in 1953. Born Tientsin, China, and educated at National Tsing-Hua University, Chi-wu Wang received his MS from Yale in 1947. Wang was a Research Assistant at the Fan Memorial Biological Institute from 1933-1943, and Associate Professor at National Kwangsi University, 1943-1946. Beginning in 1947, he was a graduate student in biology at Harvard receiving his PhD from the Department of Biology in 1953.



While working on his dissertation, Wang worked as a half-time research associate for two years at the Harvard Forest under the general supervision of Hugh M. Raup, Harvard Forest Director. In February 1953 he became a full-time research associate at the Forest. In 1954, Wang left Harvard to take a position as Interim Assistant Professor, later Associate Professor of Forestry, of Forest Genetics at the University of Florida where he assisted Thomas O. Perry in organizing the first ever University/Industry Research Cooperative in Forest Genetics at the University of Florida School of Forest

Resources and Conservation (SFRC). In 1959, Wang was at the University of Minnesota and working part of the year at the University of Florida. Beginning in 1960, he held concurrent positions as Professor of Forest Genetics at the University of Idaho and as a Research Associate at the School of Forestry, University of Minnesota. In 1961 "The Forest in China" based on his thesis; "The Forest Vegetation of Continental Eastern Asia and its Development" was published by Harvard University as Maria Moors Cabot Foundation Publications No.5.

Figure 3: Shiu-ying Hu. Mark Ostow. 2004.

Scope and Content

The Records of the Flora of China Project 1953-1957 collection is composed primarily of correspondence between Arboretum directors, participants in the project, and project sponsors. Additionally, there are reports on Chinese plants written by participating botanists. The date range covered by the materials is 1953-1957.

Arrangement

The Records of the Flora of China Project 1953-1957 collection contains 8 folders. Within folders, items are arranged chronologically.

- Folder 1: Project Overview
- Folder 2: Correspondence: 1953
- Folder 3: Correspondence: 1954
- Folder 4: Correspondence: 1955
- Folder 5: Correspondence: 1956
- Folder 6: Correspondence: 1957
- Folder 7: Hou, Ding
- Folder 8: Wang, Chi Wu: Prospectus for the Chinese Flora Project

Container List



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Box 1

⁴ Figure 4: Announcement: The 2nd annual Project Suggestion Contest. 1953

Folder 1: Project Overview

- Announcement: The 2nd annual Project Suggestion Contest. Continental Development Foundation. 1953
- Correspondence: Buck, Paul H., Provost to Sax, Karl, Director authorizing acceptance of the China International Foundation's funds to finance the project. 04/14/1953
 - Correspondence: Sax, Karl, Director to Morris, Newbold of Lovejoy, Morris, Wasson, and Huppuch accepting the China International Foundation's funds to finance the project. 04/15/1953
- Report: The Flora of China Project at the Age of Two. Shiu-ying Hu, botanist. 07/1955
- Report: Project status update including cost analysis. 1956
- Report: Contributions to the Flora of China. Richard A. Howard, Director. n.d.
- Report: Project status update including overview, progress, cost analysis and budget proposal. 1956
- Correspondence: Howard, Richard A., Director to Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist regarding project funding. 01/24/1957
- Correspondence: Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C. regarding progress of project and proposals for following year. 01/29/1957
- Notes: Annual Flora of China project budgets, 1953-1957. n.d.
- Correspondence: Howard, Richard A., Director to Hubbard, Mrs. P.M., Milton Fund withdrawing grant application. 11/24/1957

Folder 2: Correspondence: 1953

- Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation to Sax, Karl, Director arranging appointment to discuss the Flora of China project. 01/26/1953
- Sax, Karl, Director to Morris, Newbold, President, China International Foundation regarding supervision of, and funding for the project. 02/18/1953
- Johnston, Ivan M., Associate Director, Herbarium and Library to Morris, Newbold, President, China International Foundation regarding scope, supervision of, and funding for the project. 02/18/1953
- Sax, Karl, Director to Li, Hui-Lin, taxonomist, Morris Arboretum offering employment with the project. 04/30/1953
- Sax, Karl, Director to Wasson, Houston H., the China International Foundation regarding funding and project status. 05/01/1953
- Li, Hui-Lin, taxonomist, Morris Arboretum to Sax, Karl, Director regarding employment with the project. 05/04/1953
 - Sax, Karl, Director to Li, Hui-Lin, taxonomist, Morris Arboretum regarding employment with the project. 05/26/1953
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding project status. 09/07/1953
- Sax, Karl, Director to American Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina regarding visa for Te-Fong, Ling Sun. 09/18/1953

- Sax, Karl, Director to American Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina regarding visa for Te-Fong, Ling Sun. 10/27/1953
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding project status. 11/14/1953
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Howard, Richard A., Head, Department of Botany, University of Connecticut regarding the hiring of taxonomists. 11/25/1953
- Howard, Richard A., Head, Department of Botany, University of Connecticut to Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist regarding the hiring of taxonomists. 12/01/1953
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Liu, Su-ying, taxonomist offering employment with the project. 12/08/1953
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Hou, Ding, taxonomist offering employment with the project. 12/08/1953
- Liu, Su-ying, taxonomist to Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist accepting employment with the project. 12/19/1953
 - Hou, Ding, taxonomist to Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist accepting employment with the project. 12/21/1953

Folder 3: Correspondence: 1954

- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding project status. 01/03/1954
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Hou, Ding, taxonomist regarding employment with the project. 01/17/1954
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Liu, Su-ying, taxonomist regarding employment with the project. 01/17/1954
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Hou, Ding, taxonomist regarding details of employment with the project. 02/23/1954
- Howard, Richard A., Director to St. John, Harold, Department of Botany, University of Hawaii regarding the recruitment of taxonomists for the project. 04/05/1954
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Hou, Ding, taxonomist regarding details of employment with the project. 04/05/1954
- Bob [Woodson, Robert], Missouri Botanical Garden to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding possible employment of Ding Hou. 04/19/1954
 - Hou, Ding, taxonomist to Howard, Richard A., Director declining offer of employment with the project. 04/23/1954
 - Howard, Richard A., Director to Woodson, Robert, Missouri Botanical Garden regarding Ding Hou's rejection of employment. 04/28/1954
- St. John, Harold, Department of Botany, University of Hawaii to Howard, Richard A., Director recommending a botanist for the project. 04/22/1954
 - Howard, Richard A., Director to St. John, Harold, Department of Botany, University of Hawaii regarding St. John's recommendation of a botanist for the project. 04/22/1954

- Mason, Herbert L., Professor of Botany, University of California at Berkeley to Howard, Richard A., Director recommending botanists for the project. 04/22/1954
 - Howard, Richard A., Director to Mason, Herbert L., Professor of Botany, University of California at Berkeley regarding Mason's recommendations of botanists. 04/28/1954
- Gillespie, James P., taxonomist to Howard, Richard A., Director seeking employment with the project. 04/27/1954
 - Howard, Richard A., Director to Gillespie, James P., taxonomist regarding details of employment. 04/30/1957
 - Gillespie, James P., taxonomist to Howard, Richard A., Director applying for employment with the project. 05/09/1954
 - Morris, Fred H., Associate Professor, Department of Botany, University of Tennessee to Howard, Richard A., Director recommending James P. Gillespie. 05/10/1954
 - Sharp, Aaron J., Head, Department of Botany, University of Tennessee to Howard, Richard A., Director recommending James P. Gillespie. 05/11/1954
 - Howard, Richard A., Director to Gillespie, James P., taxonomist regarding employment. 05/14/1954
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Morris, Newbold, President, China International Foundation regarding funding of the project for a second year. 07/28/1954
 - Sax, Karl, Director to Buck, Paul H., Provost regarding funding of the project. 04/06/1953
 - Morris, Newbold, President, China International Foundation to Sax, Karl, Director regarding funding of the project. 04/03/1953
- Morris, Newbold, President, China International Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding funding of the project. 08/03/1954
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Whom It May Concern regarding employment of Yu-Chen Ting. 1954
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Morris, Newbold, President, China International Foundation regarding project status and request for additional funding. 10/04/1954
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation regarding funding. 10/20/1954
 - Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding funding. 10/06/1954
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation arranging meeting to discuss the project. 11/01/1954
 - Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding project status and funding. 07/30/1954
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding funding of the project for a third year. 11/30/1954
 - Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding funding of the project for a third year. 11/15/1954

- Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding project status and funding. 12/07/1954

Folder 4: Correspondence: 1955

- Howard, Richard A., Director to Woodson, Robert, Missouri Botanical Garden regarding employment of Ding Hou. 03/03/1955
 - Woodson, Robert, Missouri Botanical Garden to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding employment of Ding Hou. 01/24/1955
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding project status and funding. 04/01/1955
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Gregersen, Magnus I., President, China International Foundation regarding project status and funding. 04/22/1955
- Gregersen, Magnus I., President, China International Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding funding of the project. 04/27/1955
- Announcement: Moving of law offices of Lovejoy, Morris, Wasson and Huppuch to new address. 05/01/1955
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Hou, Ding, taxonomist offering employment with the project. 05/25/1955
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation acknowledging receipt of funds. 05/26/1955
 - Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director, sending funds for project. 05/20/1955
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Gregersen, Magnus I., President, China International Foundation acknowledging receipt of funds. 05/26/1955
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation acknowledging receipt of funds. 05/26/1955
- Hou, Ding, taxonomist to Howard, Richard A., Director accepting employment with the project. 06/02/1955
- Report: The Flora of China Project at the Age of Two. Shiu-ying Hu. 07/1955
- Quote: Printing of herbarium journal [Flora of China]. The Tudor Press Inc. 08/04/1955
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding publication of the Flora of China. 10/06/1955
 - Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding publication of the Flora of China. 07/30/1955
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding publication of the Flora of China. 11/01/1955
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding publication of the Flora of China. 11/02/1955
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding publication of the Flora of China. 11/08/1955
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation arranging a meeting to discuss the project. 11/07/1955

- Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding publication of the Flora of China and arranging a meeting to discuss the project. 11/04/1955
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation thanking him for their meeting. 11/25/1955
- Shih-liang, Chien, President, National Taiwan University to Gregersen, Magnus I., President, China International Foundation offering his university's collaboration on the Flora of China project. 12/15/1955
 - Gregersen, Magnus I., President, China International Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding Chien Shih-liang's offer of collaboration. 12/27/1955
- Li, Hui-Lin, the Morris Arboretum to Howard, Richard A., Director seeking employment with the project. 12/21/1955
 - Howard, Richard A., Director to Li, Hui-Lin, the Morris Arboretum regarding possible employment with the project. 01/04/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Gregersen, Magnus I., President, China International Foundation regarding possible collaboration with National Taiwan University and arranging a meeting. 12/30/1955

Folder 5: Correspondence: 1956

- Quote: Printing of postcards. The Tudor Press Inc. 01/06/1956
- Li, Hui-Lin, the Morris Arboretum to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding possible employment with the project. 01/12/1956
 - Whitehouse, Stella M., Secretary to Li, Hui-Lin acknowledging receipt of letter. 01/16/1956
- Invoice: Printing of Flora of China. The Tudor Press, Inc. 02/13/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Li, Hui-Lin, the Morris Arboretum regarding possible employment with the project. 02/17/1956
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding meeting and publication of the Flora of China. 02/20/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Gregersen, Magnus I., President, China International Foundation regarding funding. 02/24/1956
 - Gregersen, Magnus I., President, China International Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding funding. 03/05/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation regarding distribution of Malvaceae family flora. 03/26/1956
 - Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding distribution of Malvaceae family flora. 03/15/1956
- Invoice: Printing of Flora of China. The Tudor Press, Inc. 04/01/1956
- Hu, Shiu-ying, botanist to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding funding. 04/03/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Wilbur, Harland A., President, The Tudor Press, Inc. regarding billing discrepancies for printing of the Malvaceae flora. 04/05/1956

- Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding funding and the inability of the foundation to fund the project for the following year. 04/05/1956
 - Howard, Richard A., Director to Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation regarding funding and the inability of the foundation to fund the project for the following year. 04/10/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Wilbur, Harland A., President, The Tudor Press, Inc. regarding revised bill for printing. 05/09/1956
 - O'Clair, Leonard S., The Tudor Press, Inc. to Howard, Richard A., Director regarding revised bill for printing. 04/30/1956
 - Invoice: Printing of Flora of China. Revised. The Tudor Press, Inc. 02/13/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation arranging meeting to discuss the project. 06/05/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation acknowledging receipt of funds. 06/26/1956
 - Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director sending funds. 06/14/1956
- List: Organizations receiving publication Flora of China- Malvaceae. 09/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Santapau, H., Blatter Herbarium, Bombay, India regarding receipt of Malvaceae publication and interest in future Flora of China publications. 12/07/1956
 - Santapau, H., Blatter Herbarium, Bombay, India to Howard, Richard A., Director acknowledging receipt of Malvaceae publication and expressing interest in future Flora of China publications. 11/28/1956
- Suvarnasuddhi, Khid, Royal Forest Department, Bangkok, Thailand to Howard, Richard A., Director acknowledging receipt of Malvaceae publication and expressing interest in future Flora of China publications. 11/21/1956
- Howard, Richard A., Director to Venema, H.J., Botanische Tuinen Herbarium, Wageningen, Holland regarding receipt of Malvaceae publication and interest in future Flora of China publications. 12/10/1956
 - Venema, H.J., Botanische Tuinen Herbarium, Wageningen, Holland to Howard, Richard A., Director acknowledging receipt of Malvaceae publication and expressing interest in future Flora of China publications. 11/29/1956

Folder 6: Correspondence: 1957

- Howard, Richard A., Director to Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation regarding expenses for the first three and a half years of the project. 02/26/1957
 - Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director inquiring about expenses for the first three and a half years of the project. 02/16/1957
 - Weng, H.C., Continental Development Foundation to Howard, Richard A., Director acknowledging receipt of statement of expenses. 02/28/1957
- Report: Plant Material Used in Chinese Food. Shiu-ying Hu. 03/15/1957

- Kraetzer, Jr., Eugene G., Recording Secretary, Harvard University to Wasson, Houston H., China International Foundation acknowledging receipt of funds. 05/22/1957
- Tisthammer, Dana J., Southern Methodist University Libraries to Arboretum requesting a copy of the Flora of China- Malvaceae. 07/05/1957
- List: Institutions wishing future publications of the Flora of China. n.d.

Folder 7: Hou, Ding

- Report: [Flora of China]
Flagellariaceae
Centrolepidaceae
Xyridaceae
Palmae

Key to the Genera

1. Caryota Linn.
2. Arenga Labill.
3. Didymosperma H. Wendl. and Drude
4. Wallichia Roxb.
5. Pinanga Blume
6. Phoenix Linn.
7. Cocos Linn.
8. Areca Linn.
9. Calamus Linn.
10. Daemonorops Blume
11. Livistona R. Br.
12. Trachycarpus H. Wendl.
13. Licuala Rumph. ex Wurm
14. Rhaps Linn. f.

Doubtful Genus and Species

Folder 8: Wang, Chi-Wu: Prospectus for the Chinese Flora Project

- Prospectus for the Chinese Flora Project. Chi-Wu Wang. 02/1953