

Book Review

Published online: 30 October 2020

Ovules and Identification of Willows (*Salix*). Alexander M. Marchenko. Non-Stop Publishing House, Moscow, Russia. 2019. ISBN: 978-5-9909624-3-9. 116 pages.

The quantification of ovule numbers is presented as a robust methodology, which can be used in addition to morphological characters and molecular data, for willow classification, identification and verification of the parentage of hybrid species. The taxonomic importance of ovule numbers in the genus *Salix* has been previously explored by various investigators including J. Chmelar, G. Argus and others. A. Marchenko expands this approach and includes extensive data on ovule numbers for many *Salix* species. These data are presented in convenient table formats to assist *Salix* taxonomists in classification and plant breeders in parent identification (pp. 10-16, 91,100-101,102).



New intraspecific classifications, including varieties and forms, are proposed for the widespread species *Salix alba*, *Salix babylonica*, *Salix fragilis*, and *Salix vitellina*, based on the ovule numbers. Also, the study clarifies the parentage of some hybrids, including thirty cold-hardy ornamental willows developed in Russia, which were described by Marchenko in the illustrated volume “V.I. Shaburov’s ornamental hybrid willows for northern climates” (<http://skvortsovia.uran.ru/2018/4204.pdf>), published in 2017.

The author emphasizes that with the advent of molecular techniques the ovule number provides another modern tool for a better understanding of the species differentiation and genetic diversity within the genus *Salix*.

The monograph is a useful resource for salicologists, willow breeders, geneticists, botanists, taxonomists, foresters and nurserymen.

This study has been published in Russian. A PDF copy of this publication is available free of charge from the author (nuphar@list.ru) who also presented a copy of his book to each delegate at the International Salicaceae Symposium, Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium, 2019.

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