

When referring to these Chinese firs in this paper I have retained throughout the specific designations by which they are generally known, although I am well aware of the new combinations recently proposed by A. H. Jackson, who while advocating the retention of *Taiwania* would have placed the other two in the genus *Abies*. This is not the occasion for a detailed discussion of the merits or demerits of such a grouping, but a brief expression of my personal opinion on this subject will be found in the "Introduction." I would again lay stress, however, on the undesirability of basing a conception of the Chinese species of *Abies* on characters exhibited by their progeny in this country, and I would even go so far as to suggest that

Taiwania in Burma—A New Record.

BY

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The peculiar monotypic genus *Taiwania* was found originally in Formosa in 1904, and was named and described by Hayata from material collected by Konishi on Mount Morrison. In 1916, Handel-Mazzetti discovered this Formosan conifer on the Salwin-Irrawaddy watershed in N.W. Yunnan, and from the same area further specimens were obtained by George Forrest in 1921. Prior to this, in 1918, Forrest found *Taiwania* growing in a mixed forest between Yungchang and the Salwin river, some 200 miles south of the former locality. It was not known then to occur elsewhere, and the apparent restriction of *Taiwania* to the island of Formosa and to this part of Western China has been cited as a remarkable example of discontinuous distribution. In view of its comparative rarity in either country, a new record relating to *Taiwania* is worthy of note, particularly if this implies some extension of its former geographical range.

Some time ago, when examining material in the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden, the writer discovered an unnamed specimen in the Burmese Collection of J. H. Lace which is undoubtedly referable to *Taiwania cryptomerioides*. This particular specimen (Lace No. 52), which consists of a sterile branch of what is described in the accompanying legend as a "large tree," was collected in the Myitkyina district of Upper Burma in September, 1912. The exact locality is given as "near Paypat bungalow," and the altitude indicated is "6,000 ft." Lace also mentions that the vernacular name of the tree is *Shoak*.

Two interesting facts emerge with the disclosure of this herbarium sheet. One is the hitherto unsuspected fact that *Taiwania* had been found across the Burmese frontier so long ago as 1912, and growing, too, in a climate which is very different from that of its Formosan habitat, where it is relatively cool all the year round. The other point of interest is the date of collection of Lace's specimen, for it follows from this that *Taiwania* had been observed in Upper Burma prior to the time of its discovery in Western China.