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TAXONOMIC NOVELTIES

A unique form of *Salix schwerinii* E.L. Wolf (Salicaceae Mirb.) from the Russian Far East

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ABSTRACT

A golden form of *Salix schwerinii* new to the science was described from the territory of Zeya State Nature Reserve. This is the only form with golden leaves noted among all representatives of the family Salicaceae.

Keywords: *Salix schwerinii*, forma *aurea*, new form, Far East, Amur Region

РЕЗЮМЕ

Каракулов А.В. Уникальная форма *Salix schwerinii* E.L. Wolf (Salicaceae Mirb.) с Дальнего Востока России. С территории Зейского государственного природного заповедника описана новая для науки золотистая форма *Salix schwerinii*. Это единственная форма с золотистыми листьями, отмеченная среди всех представителей семейства Salicaceae.

Ключевые слова: *Salix schwerinii*, forma *aurea*, новая форма, Дальний Восток, Амурская область

The *Salix* L species comprise an important part of diversity of woody plants in Asian Russia. They occur in all natural-climatic zones over the whole area of Siberia and the Russian Far East and are represented by 103 species (Baikov 2012). Subspecies and forms of willows were distinguished and described by habit features (spreading, pyramidal, weeping, clavate), color of bark of young branches and the shape of branches (redbark, yellowbark, greenbark, flexuose) and leaf color (blue, silvery, etc.). None of the species from the genera of the family Salicaceae Lindl.: *Chosenia* Nakai, *Salix* L., *Populus* L. have forms with golden leaves (Komarov 1936, Sokolov 1951, Skvortsov 1968, Kolesnikov 1974, Koropachinskiy & Vstovskaya 2002).

A new form of *Salix schwerinii* with golden colour of leaves (Fig. 1) was found during the field work in Zeya Nature Reserve in Amur Region. Earlier, only a weeping form had been described in this species (Bakulin et al. 2008). Herbarium specimens were collected at the foot of the Tukuringra Mountain Range, the flora of which includes 14 species of willow (Starchenko 2008, Veklich & Darman 2013).

Salix schwerinii E.L. Wolf f. ***aurea*** A. Karakulov **forma nova**

A shrub up to 6 m tall. Young shoots are short-hairy, olive-golden, later brown, thin, brittle. Leaves are alternate, 2–12 cm long, 0.3–1.5 cm wide, lanceolate, almost linear. The margin of the blade is even, slightly curled beneath. Leaves are glabrous, shiny above, young leaves golden, later golden-green, silvery-white beneath due to dense short and accumbent pubescence. Stipules are awl-shaped, up to 3 mm long, quickly deciduous.

Figure 1 *Salix schwerinii* E.L. Wolf f. *aurea* A. Karakulov in natural habitat

Figure 2 Type specimen of *Salix schwerinii* E.L. Wolf f. *aurea* A. Karakulov forma nova

Type specimens: "Russia, Amur Oblast, Zeya Region, Zeya State Nature Reserve, 23 km of the Zeya-Zolotaya Gorka motorway, 53°54'05"N, 127°05'13"E, elevation 515 m above sea level, 06.12.2014. Coll. & Det. A. Karakulov. **Holotypus:** NSK [NSK0000832], **Isotypus:** NSK [NSK0000831] (Fig. 2).

A revealed golden form of *Salix schwerinii* occurs at the southern foot of the Tukuringra Mountain Range in the thickets of *Salix schwerinii*, *Duschekia fruticosa* (Rupr.) Pouzar and *Betula pendula* Roth. It is highly ornamental due to bright foliage and is of specific interest for urban plantings. It is in need of conservation.

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