



Lectotypification of the name *Populus wilsonii* (Salicaceae)

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During the ongoing revision of *Populus* Linnaeus (1753: 1034) for the *Flora of Pan-Himalayas*, the application of the name *Populus wilsonii* Schneider (1916: 16) has been considered a complicated problem. *P. wilsonii* was described by Schneider based on Wilson's collections from western Hupeh and western Szech'uan. In the protologue, Schneider cited *E. H. Wilson 706a*, May 20 and August 1907, Hsing-shan Hsien as types, which belong to two gatherings (cf. Art. 8.2 of the ICN, McNeill *et al.* 2012). Hao (1935) briefly reviewed Chinese *Populus* and cited *E. H. Wilson* no. 706a in Arnold Arboretum as the type of *P. wilsonii*, specifying in which herbarium the types were conserved, but not which of the two gatherings he designated as lectotype. We traced eight specimens of “*E. H. Wilson 706a*” in five herbaria: A, E, GH, K, US (Table 1). The two specimens kept in A (barcodes 00030875, 00030877) are labelled with Schneider's handwriting “cotype, 20/5/07” and “type No. 8/07”, respectively, but both are composed of a flowering branch and a separated branch with mature leaves. These two specimens appear to be mixed gatherings, since most poplar flowers fade before the leaves unfold. Meanwhile, another specimen at K (barcode K000592058, image available at <http://www.kew.org/herbcatimg/290165.jpg>) labelled “*E. H. Wilson 706a*, 5/07 + 8/07” provided additional evidence that one sheet of *E. H. Wilson 706a* could be composed of material from different gatherings. Although the collection date was not identical to the protologue (May 1907 vs. May 20 1907), the E specimen of “*E. H. Wilson 706a*, 5/07” (barcode E00301557) was attached with an “Isotype” label and is supposed to be part of the gathering of *E. H. Wilson 706a*, May 20 1907. As a result, there are three gatherings under the same collection number: flowering female branches collected on May 20 1907, branches with mature leaves collected in August 1907, and flowering female branches with primary leaves collected in May 1907.

TYPIFICATION

According to Schneider's original description, *P. wilsonii* is readily distinguished from *P. lasiocarpa* Oliver (1890: 1943) by the glabrous and purple branchlets and leaves that are not so deeply cordate at base. We examined two sheets of *E. H. Wilson 706a*, May 1907 (K barcode K000592059 and E barcode E00301557), which should be determined as *P. lasiocarpa* because of the tomentose and yellowish branchlets and deeply cordate leaf base (Table 2). In addition, *E. H. Wilson 706* (not *706a*), May 1907 was cited as *P. lasiocarpa* by Schneider in *Plantae Wilsonianae*. Therefore, we conclude that *E. H. Wilson 706a*, May 1907 and *E. H. Wilson 706a*, May 20, 1907 are different gatherings that belong to different taxa, and the collection number of the former may be incorrect.

Schneider and other taxonomists (Fang *et al.*, 1999) indicated that the difference in leaf shape is the principal and most obvious characteristic to distinguish *P. wilsonii* from *P. lasiocarpa*, but the flowers of the two species were similar. Hence the gathering with mature leaves collected in August 1907 provide more information for identification. Because the specimen of *E. H. Wilson 706a* (A barcode 00030877) is labeled with the date “8/07” and author's handwriting “type No.”, the branch with mature leaves on that sheet is designated as the lectotype of the name *P. wilsonii*.

Populus wilsonii Schnieder (1916: 16)

Type (lectotype, designated here):—CHINA. Hubei (“Hupeh”). Xingshan County (“Hsing-shan Hsien”). 1800m (“5500 ft.”) alt., August 1907, *E. H. Wilson 706a* (lectotype A barcode 00030877!, branch on the left with mature leaves [digital image] (Figure 1); isolectotypes A barcode 00030875!, branch with mature leaves [digital image], E barcode E00301556! [digital image], GH barcode 00030876! [digital image], K barcode K000592058!, branch with mature leaves [digital image], US barcode 00105024! [digital image]).

Additional specimens examined (remaining syntypes):—CHINA. Hubei (“Hupeh”). Xingshan County (“Hsing-shan Hsien”). 1800m (“5500 ft.”) alt., May 20, 1907, *E. H. Wilson 706a* (A barcode 00030877!, flowering branches [digital image], A barcode 00030875!, flowering branches [digital image]).