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Cotoneaster horizontalis

[Synonyms : *Cotoneaster acuminata* var. *prostrata*, *Cotoneaster horizontalis* var. *wilsonii*, *Cotoneaster symonsii*, *Diospyros chaffanjoni*]

WALL COTONEASTER is a semi-evergreen, weeping shrub. Native to western China it has small, pinkish-white flowers.

It is also known as Creeping cotoneaster, *Fächer-Zwergmispel* (German), Fishbone cotoneaster, Herringbone cotoneaster, *Lingonoxbär* (Swedish), Rock cotoneaster, Rockspray, Rockspray cotoneaster, *Skalník rozprestretý* (Slovak), *Skalník rozprostřený* (Czech), *Skalník vodorovný* (Czech), *Sulkatuhkapensas* (Finnish), and Wallspray.

The flowers' nectar is particularly attractive to many insects, not least bees but especially newly-emerged queen wasps.

Warning – all parts of wall cotoneaster are poisonous, but especially the berries.

Horizontalis means 'horizontal (along or just above the ground)'.

The common names Fishbone ... and Herringbone ... refer to the regular arrangement of branches in the same plane that invites its ornamental use in gardens, splayed across walls or over rocks.

It is believed that this Chinese species was introduced to Britain in 1879. (However some plant historians seem to be a little wary of this assertion as seeds of it had been sent to the Natural History Museum of Paris by 1873 by the French Lazarist missionary and naturalist, Père Armand David (1826-1900)).