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Leycesteria formosa

HIMALAYAN HONEYSUCKLE is a deciduous shrub. Native to south-western China, the Himalayas and eastern Tibet, it has small delicately scented, white flowers each surrounded by wine-red petal-like leaves (bracts).

It is also known as *Bachgen Llwm* (Welsh), Elisha's tears, Flowering nutmeg, *Karamelbeere* (German), *Nulkuroo* (Nepalese), Partridge berry, and Pheasant berry.

Formosa means 'beautiful or handsome'.

Game-birds particularly enjoy the fruit, pheasants especially. Thus it is hardly surprising to learn that Himalayan honeysuckle is sometimes grown in game coverts.

Dr. John Forbes Royle (1799-1858), when he was in charge of the East India Company's garden in the Punjab at Saharanpur in the 1820s, collected specimens of Himalayan honeysuckle. It was introduced to England in 1824.