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Photinia davidiana

[Synonyms : *Cotoneaster frigidus*, *Stranvaesia davidiana*, *Stranvaesia davidiana* var. *undulata*, *Stranvaesia undulata*]

PHOTINIA is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to western China it has small, white flowers each with about twenty stamens and small red berries.

It is also known as Chinese photinia, Stranvaesia, and Tree cotoneaster.

Older leaves turn crimson in Autumn.

In the Pacific Islands it has been declared an invasive plant.

Davidiana commemorates a French Lazarist missionary and naturalist, Père Armand David (1826-1900). After his ordination in 1862 he was eventually sent to Beijing and is said to have been rigorous in maintaining his religious duties and obeying the Order's rules. Yet despite these demands he managed to find time for his interest in zoology, botany, geology and palaeontology and the Paris botanical garden (Jardin des Plantes) eventually commissioned him to make journeys of discovery on their behalf. His specimens included over 1000 animals, birds and plants, a significant number of which were unknown to Europeans at that time and his travels took him as far afield from the Chinese capital as Mongolia, Tibet and central China (as well as to the north of China and to the western provinces). The most striking of his zoological discoveries for the non-naturalist were probably the giant panda and Père David's deer. Authorities note that his botanical specimens included new species of about 40 of the *Primulae* genus, over that number of gentians and at least 52 new rhododendrons. Photinia was one of the plants he discovered and introduced to cultivation in 1869.

The plant was introduced to North America in 1917.

Photinia is cultivated as an ornamental plant, sometimes to create a screen or informal hedge.