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*Pittosporum tobira*

[Synonyms : *Euonymus tobira*, *Pittosporum chinense*]

**TOBIRA** (English, Japanese) is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to China and Japan it has small orange-blossom scented, creamy-white (maturing to yellow) flowers.

It is also known as Australian laurel, Houseblooming mock orange, Japanese cheesewood, Japanese laurel, Japanese mock orange, Japanese pittosporum, Mockorange, Pittosporum, and *Slizoplod tobira* (Czech).

*Tobira* is a local Japanese name for the plant.

This was one of the first species sent back to Britain in 1804 by the first resident professional plant collector in China. William Kerr. He had been a gardener at Kew Botanical Gardens and was a protégé of Sir Joseph Banks (1744-1820) the famous English botanist, and was recommended to the East India Company and held his post in China from 1804-1812.