

Preface

Although cultivated over many centuries in the Far East, only in the last century, Sasanquas were introduced into the West. Initially, despite their spectacular and profuse blooming, the single sasanqua flowers were considered inferior to the classic *Camellia japonica*.

Nowadays, sasanquas really are a great ornamental plant for gardens and balconies. First, the sasanqua can offer a long blooming season from October to February, and secondly without having any petal blight. *C. sasanqua* is hardy enough, and hybrids with *japonica* are even more so, to withstand winters even in Germany. Additionally, Sasanquas offer interesting and pretty blooms, from hybridization with

- *Camellia japonica*, thus producing the so-called *C. hiemalis* and *C. x vernalis* groups
- other species, such as *C. oleifera*, *C. yuhsienensis*, *C. reticulata* etc

The idea of a book totally dedicated to sasanquas was born in June 2022, during a visit to Japan. The Japanese Camellia Society had just published the book “*Camellia sasanquas* of Japan” but for various reasons, it was impossible to re-publish that book in a more international version. After discussions with Professor Tanaka and Sueo Takano, we decided to publish an ICS book, as a sort of international iconographie. Professor Tanaka was able to build an international team, which included China, France, Great Britain, Italy, Spain and USA. I am aware a further volume is needed to include Oceania and explore the USA in more depth. I am sure we will.

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