

The Development of the Database of International Camellia Register and Online Registration Procedure

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Abstract

The *International Camellia Register* (ICR) was first published as two volumes in 1993. Its 1st supplement was published in 1997 and the 2nd supplement in 2011. The register, which is continually updated, aims to list every name of every cultivated variety of camellia – whether for ornamental, tea, or oil – that has been registered or listed in a publication.

In May 2008, the ICS – the official registration body for the genus *Camellia* – took its first steps in digital publication, launching the Web Register, which provided online users access to all the information included in the Register, its supplements, and pending information.

Then, in May 2019, the online **Database of International Camellia Register** (DICR) was officially open to the public to use (website: <http://camellia.iflora.cn>). The DICR was developed by the team members of the International Camellia Society (<http://camellia.iflora.cn/Home/Team>). The database is the most comprehensive database so far which includes all cultivars – again, whether for ornamental, tea or oil applications – in the genus *Camellia* throughout the world as well as related synonyms and misspellings. It complies with *the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP). The database has more than 47,715 names (including 23,649 valid names and 24,066 synonyms or Chinese names or Japanese names) and 35,134 pictures of camellia cultivars up to 12 October 2019.

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The database Users can search the names of camellia cultivars in different languages including English, Chinese and Japanese. The database identified and addressed the occurrences of more than 2,300 duplicate names in the printed ICR and has solved many other problems, such as enabling diacritical marks for Japanese cultivars in various forms, especially in the forms of the circumflex, all of which have been corrected to the macron form.

All these treatments will greatly promote uniformity, accuracy, and stability in the naming of new cultivated camellias. It is also an online, open-working platform, which means that most of the contents in the database can be edited by editors from different countries. The database will automatically record who make changes for each entry as well as the time they make changes, to emphasis their contributions on working the database. In addition, the database allows Registered Users throughout the world to upload photos, and co-operate to identify photos; the system will automatically record who uploaded photos and when, to show their contributions.

Every cultivar had a unique QR code shown in the cultivar page which can be downloaded separately and incorporated into plant labels for using in botanical gardens or nurseries, and so on. We also developed an off-line dictionary (<http://camellia.iflora.cn/Developer/Tool>) which can be downloaded for use in mobile/ cell phones (Android and iphone) or personal computers. In this paper we will also introduce this database in detail on how to fill out the On-Line Registration form and to compose the description automatically by using the information on the form.

Key words: Database, International, Camellia, Register, QR Code.