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**Asian Germplasm Resources of *Yulania* Spach
(Magnoliaceae)**

Dali Fu^{1*}, Fangdong Li¹, and Donglin Zhang²

¹Nontimber Forestry Research and Development Center, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Zhengzhou, Henan, 450003, China

²Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Maine, Orono, Maine, 04469, USA

The genus of *Yulania*, generally thought as subgenus of *Magnolia*, is a very important group of species in the evolution of Magnoliaceae. *Yulania* are different from *Magnolia* on morphology, physiology, and molecular features. *Yulania* are deciduous, proleptis; leaves chartaceous, not cluster into the base of branches; stipules adhibit to petiole; flower buds ovate, with perules 1-4 and dense long pubes outside; peduncle not elongate; flower precocious and erect, anther dehiscence heterotrorse (lateral), not homotrorse (introrse and extrorse) and the filaments not longer than anthers. Aggregate of follicles are cylindrical often curve for some carpel inadequacy development and follicle apices are not beaked. *Yulania* are insulated with *Magnolia* in procreation, and a group species different from other groups at the DNA level. *Yulania* are mainly distributed in Asia--China is the center origin and of the genus. *Yulania* have 23 species in Asia and only one species, *Y. acuminata*, is distributed in North America. The most popular ones in today's ornamental trade around the world are *Y. denudata*, *Y. liliiflora*, *Y. kobus* and *Y. stellata*. Some other species are however still restricted to the original sites of China, such as *Y. viridula*, *Y. sinostellata*, *Y. pyriformis*, *Y. mirifolia* and *Y. wugangensis*. These species are beautiful ornamental plants and can increase the gene pool for future *Yulania* breeding. On a species level, many varieties, hybrids, and cultivars, bred in Asia as well as North America and Europe have been addressed. Besides *Yulania*'s ornamental values, their flower buds, called 'Xinyi', are used in traditional Chinese medicine and to produce volatile oils. The percentage of volatile oil of 'Xinyi' is very high and can reach 7.2% in a new variety, *Y. biondii* var. *fuyou*. *Yulania* is clearly a very important crop for ornamental, medicinal, fragrance, and other horticultural industries.

Key words: germplasm, *Magnolia*, *Yulania*, Magnoliaceae, medicine, ornamental

*Corresponding author: fudali@pntfrc.com