

1753 *Clematis sibirica* (L.) Miller: In **Rehder** 1940, the date 1753 is given as the year of introduction into cultivation. This is probably based on a record in Philip Miller's **Figures of Plants described in The Gardeners Dictionary** vol. II, plate 284, 1760, where the following appears:

»This Plant grows naturally in Tartary, where it was discovered by Dr. Gmelin, who sent the seeds to the Imperial Garden at Petersburg, where they succeeded; and in 1753 I was favoured with some of the seeds from that Garden, which have succeeded at Chelsea.«

Joh. Georg Gmelin undertook an expedition of botanical exploration throughout Siberia in 1734–1742. It is most likely from this that he sent seed to St. Petersburg, where they successfully grew plants, from which seed were sent to Philip Miller in London in 1753.

Linnaeus describes the species as *Atragene sibirica* in **Species Plantarum** vol. I, p. 543, 1753, and makes the following remarkable statement about the flowers: »Flores paniculati, rubri, pleni. Facies Aquilegiae stellatae.« In translation: "The flowers in panicles, red, double. Appearance as in *Aquilegia stellata*".

The original specimen, on which the description is based, is kept in Linnaeus' herbarium (no. 711.7) in the Linnean Society in London. It consists of an inflorescence of *Aquilegia stellata* (left on sheet) and a sterile shoot of *Clematis* (*Atragene*) *sibirica* (right). The flowers of *C. sibirica* are always greenish white or yellowish white, sometimes with a rose tinge on the middle veins, especially towards the base. Millers engraving (Plate 284, crafted in 1759) gives a characteristic depiction of the plant. The year of introduction of *C. sibirica* must be no later than 1742.

1758 H. J. N. Crantz, professor of medicine in Vienna, published an Austrian flora, **Stirpium austriacarum** (2nd ed.) in 1769. He describes and depicts *C. alpina* thoroughly under the name »*Atragene clematides*«. In vol. I, p. 128, he states that from 1758–1762 he had grown a plant in his garden, taken from »Mistelthall-Schneeberg«. In 1760 he commissioned an engraving. The result is very characteristic and instructive. It shows a stem bound to a stick, a creeping stem and a subsoil runner, which has formed roots and a new shoot all on the same plant.



Clematis alpina Crantz