

prophylls of these buds were not formed until the buds were 'allowed' to sprout, e.g. after the main shoot had wilted. Syllepsis was common in *S. amygdaloides* and effected the resprouting ability. The significantly different growth pattern resulted in lower coppicing ability and productivity in *S. amygdaloides* compared to *S. viminalis* and *S. eriocephala*.

Nomenclature of the promising biomass coppice willows, *S. × sericans* Tausch ex Kern., *S. dasyclados* Wimm. and *S. 'Aquatica Gigantea'*

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S. × sericans Tausch ex Kern., the collective hybrid between *S. caprea* L. × *S. viminalis* L. is a tree 6 m high producing particularly vigorous coppice shoots. It is the basis of many of our current selections for biomass and would be an important component of any breeding programme. The hybrid of *viminalis* with *cinerea*, *S. × smithiana* Willd. is more rare than with *caprea*. Further a vigorous male clone grown in commerce in Western Europe as *S. × smithiana* is misnamed. Two clones obtained from different British nurseries as *S. × smithiana* and which differ appreciably in vigour and phenology are in fact both hybrids of *caprea* × *viminalis*, i.e. × *sericans*. Triple hybrids of *viminalis* × *caprea* × *cinerea* exist (Meikle 1952, 1978). It is within this complex that preferred biomass willows like *dasyclados* Wimm., *calodendrom* Wimm. have their affinity. These willows and the so-called *S. 'Aquatica Gigantea'* are being widely planted in biomass trials and an examination of their problematical nomenclature is therefore timely.

References

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Francis Buchanan White (1842–94) and the revision of the British willows

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Francis Buchanan White (1842–94) of Perth, Scotland, entered the University of Edinburgh in 1860 to study medicine, graduating in 1864. Following his marriage in

1866, relieved of the burden of earning a living, he devoted his energies to the study of natural history. He founded the Perthshire Society of Natural Science (1867), the Cryptogamic Society of Scotland (1875) and the East of Scotland Union of Naturalists' Societies (1884). His interests were wide ranging and included mosses, fungi, lepidoptera and hemiptera.

In the 1880s his work towards the 'Flora of Perthshire' caused him to look closely at the willows and by 1887 he could write 'I am bold enough to contemplate a revision of the British forms'. The resulting *Revision of the British Willows* was published in 1890.

White died on December 3rd 1894 and his willow work was quickly superceded but his willow herbarium survives intact at Perth Museum and Art Gallery, George St., Perth.

Reference

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