

Hepatica Angulosa-Gruppe

Hepatica yamatutai

Hepatica henryi

Hepatica falconeri

H. transsilvanica

Hepática yamatútai NAKAI

Place and date of valid description or designation of the species:

Hepática yamatutai NAKAI in: J. Jap. Bot. 13: 309. 1937. (Takenoshin NAKAI, 1882-1952 Japanese botanist, wrote wrote, among other things, the Korean and Japanese flora).

Synonyme: Hepática hénryi var. yamatutai ?
Hepática yamatutae ?

W. perennial, herbaceous perennial, ca. 10-15(-20) cm high.

Wz. similar to *H. transsilvanica* with creeping root shoots.

Bla. basal leaves 5-lobed, with three stronger and two smaller lobes, pointed, 3-5 cm, upper and underside rather hairy; evergreen-evergreen, new leaves appear in mid-April after flowering; later flowering; shoots light purple-reddish on both sides, later green above and only the underside is violet-red.

Mon. 01-03

Blü. Perigón; ♂, radial, basal, uniflorous; 3 bracts (involucral leaves), these hairy, acute; 5-6(-7) uniform bracts (tepals), initially with pinkish stripes on the dorsal side, the side, the opened flower is pure white and larger than the flower of the related *Hepática hénryi*; long stemmed, stalk hairy.

Gr. greenish

N. whitish-greenish

Stbf. light green

Stbb. white

Frkn. light green

Best.

Fr.

S.

Verbr.



Occurrence: **China:** western China, Sichuan province, on the slopes of Mount Emei Shan (3099 m a.s.l.) at altitudes between 1600 and 2000 m; evergreen forests with high rainfall; permeable limestone with a humus layer of decaying leaves.

Chromosomen¹⁾: **2n = 28 (tetraploide Art;** Anzahl der Chromosomen in den Zellen; Mabuchi et al. 1987); eng verwandt mit *Hepática hénryi* oder evtl. nur Form davon ?

Bemerkungen: hépar (griech.) = Leber bzw. hepáticos (griech.) und hepátikus (lat.) = leberartig – s. Bemerkungen zu *Hepática nóbilis*;
yamatutai probably after K. YAMATUTA ? (japan. Sammler/Botaniker um 1937/1939);
German name: Yamatutai-Leberblümchen.
Probably stands *Hepática transsilvanica* close.

Culture, use: Langsam wachsend, aber nicht schwierig in feuchter, kalkhaltiger und gut drainierter Erde; schattiger Standort, im Winter im Kalthaus.
Vegetative propagation by division, tearing off of underground shoots or root cuttings from the thickened root shoots, when these are about 10 cm lg. (similar to *Anemóné nemerósa*).

Literature:

Jürgen Peters „Leberblümchenkatalog“ Staudengärtnerei „Alpine Raritäten“ Jürgen Peters, Uetersen, 2001 bzw. 2002 (einschließl. M. D. Myers „A Review of the Genus Hepatica“ 1990 in deutscher Übersetzung)

¹⁾ Mikinori Ogisu, M. Rashid Awan, Tomoo Mabuchi & Yuki Mikanagi „Morphology, phenology and cytology of *Hepatica falconeri* in Pakistan“ Kew Bulletin Vol. 57 No. 4, 2002, S. 943-953, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew

Hepatica yamatutai

Yamatuta Liverwort

I wrote about this plant as recently as 2000:

"The somewhat different liverwort" Years

ago I received from Japan an unusual liverwort, it was *Hepatica yamatutai*. Since I received it in the depths of winter, it was potted and first brought frost-free into the spring. The curiosity that lies dormant in me tempted me to the following experiment: I took a small brush and (many know what happens) tried to act as a little bee. I had flowers of *Hepatica nobilis* and *Hepatica transsilvanica* and pollinated the flowers of *Hepatica yamatutai* with respective pollen of the aforementioned. After a few exciting weeks, some seed actually matured and after immediate sowing, some plantlets actually germinated the following year. The surprise was successful! In the further development it turned out that the young plants were very slow in growth and said goodbye to my stock after two years. To make matters worse, my few larger "Yamatutai" also thought they could not cope with the conditions, so I had lost my stock. That's how it is when you experiment with the few gems in your nursery. So be it, in the meantime I have procured new material from China and will try to continue my crossing attempts with a little more luck. One thing I would like to add, fortunately at that time I gave three plants to a friend plant lover, who planted them in his natural garden (very much foliage fall). After about seven years we can say that one plant has survived and it is slowly growing ahead. I think it is worthwhile to further study and propagate this *Hepatica* species to make it available to other plant enthusiasts. This is the only way to gain more knowledge about this somewhat different liverwort.

Knowledge today 2008

Well, I must say that I have learned and see things differently today. In the meantime *H. yamatutai* grow quite well and we can propagate them by seed. The winter hardiness has also been confirmed, although under the same conditions as the Japanese and Korean hepatica. The winter wetness can be very hard on them, so precautions should be taken. They like humusy, well-drained soil in semi-shaded to shaded areas in the garden. The other option is to grow them in a cold house, which has the advantage of having the plants in front of you when they bloom, so you can observe them better. In their homeland, the mountain forests of the Emei Shan (3200m above sea level), they occur at altitudes of 1600 to 2000m. They compensate for the alternating humidity of their habitat with strong pubescence on the upper and lower side of the leaves. The underside of the leaves is strongly reddened, only in pure albinos the underside is also light green and the flowers are white on the front and back. There are also beautiful marbled leaves. The flowers on the back side have more or less a pink stripe. The flower looks very similar to *H. nobilis*, it has 5-7 corolla leaves, the bracts mostly have 2-3 notches on the tip. The pollen bearers seem to exist only in white, and the ovaries occur only in light green. The shoot tips are



H. yamatutai



Bracts + bud



New growth



Bloom

horizontal and can reach 10-15 cm in length. *H. yamatutai* is tetraploid ($2n = 28$). One can cross the Angulosa - group among themselves well and count on seed, whereas with the Triloba - group there are no generative offspring. Propagation usually takes place by sowing, only failed, as well as double flowering types are propagated vegetatively. You can divide the individual shoot tips, or if the rootstocks are long enough, try root cuttings. Seed propagation is done exactly as with all other hepatica, do not let the seed dry out and get it into the ground as soon as possible. This hepatica is worth trying, once you get a handle on it, it rewards you with beautiful foliage and adequate flowering.



Marmorata Young shoot



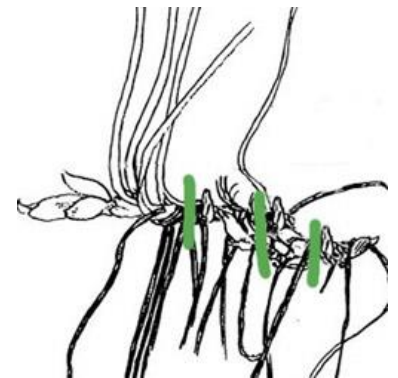
Marmorata Type



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Crossings with *H. yamatutai*

I can only write about my own experience, as I did not come across any lore during my research. Only one picture from Japan showing a cross of *H. yamatutai* x *H. nobilis* var. *japonica*, where the plant has strong pink flowers. The other *H. yamatutai* found with me are in all probability self-crosses between *H. transsilvanica* x *H. yamatutai*. The leaves have a few more lobes than *H. yamatutai*, and the underside is not quite as heavily colored red. The flowers are strongly reminiscent of *H. transsilvanica*. Since I have had these bastards for only a short time, I need to invest more time in research. The feasibility of different crosses with *H. yamatutai* excites me, I hope that the future will bring us some more beautiful things.



Rizome propagation

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x yamatutai Flower



x yamatutai Leaf



x yamatutai Leaf back