

Hepatica henryi var. *henryi*

Description:

Distribution:

West of China: Chongqing (E. Sichuan/Szechuan), Hubei, Hunan, Shaanxi; 1300 - 2500 m; deciduous forests (1400 - 1800 m) covered in bamboo, which ensures good drainage. Grassland and thicket; shady, calcareous, humid locations.

Habitus: perennial, herbaceous, 5 - 10 cm tall (smallest species).

Roots: The rhizomes are very delicate but strong none the less.

Leaves: Basal leaves are slightly lobed (not deeper than 1/3 of the length of the leaf), 3 (- 5?)-lobed, it's possible for them to have 12 -15 smaller lobes which gives the leaves a rounded look, 3 - 5 cm ø, dark green, lightly hirsute, slightly marbled. Young leaves often nicely bronze coloured when emerging. Petiole with ruffled, shaggy looking hairs, 5 10 cm long.

Flowering time: March.

Flowers: Perigonium; ♂, radial symmetric, 1 - 2 cm, basal, 1-flowered; 3 (-5?) pointed, hirsute involucral bracts, directly above 6 uniform sepals, small 8 - 12 mm long, obovate to small elliptic; rarely with filled flowers; mostly white (to lightly yellowish-white), sometimes light pink to delicately lavender coloured; with a long pedicel, hirsute.

Style: white

Filaments: white, or pink, with a reddish connective

Anthers: white

Ovaries: light green, hirsute.

Chromosomes: $2n = 28$ (tetraploid)

Propagation: Often forms root buds, which can be used to propagate the plant. Division is possible after flowering. It's also possible to increase *H. henryi* var. *henryi* by sowing, sow the seeds as soon as they are ripe.



Emerging leaves



Flowers and leaf



Upper side leaf



Underside leaf

Soil requirements: slightly acidic, well drained and with

a lot of humus. Soil neutral to slightly acidic, rich in humus, slightly humid and well drained..

Use: it's a small, easy growing plant which can be planted in troughs or in the shade garden. The hardiness in our European gardens is guaranteed. Hepatica-connoisseurs from central Sweden, Norway, Poland, Austria, the Netherlands and England and different areas in Germany have been growing in their garden.

Availability: Imported in Europa and North-America from China in 1997.



Early stage, leaves



Flower white



Mature plant



Flower pink-white



Flower pink filled



Flower white filled



Flower pink