

***Hepática nóbilis* SCHREBER var. *japónica* T. NAKAI**

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

Hepática nóbilis SCHREBER var. *japónica* T. NAKAI (Takenoshin NAKAI, 1882-1952 Japanese botanist, wrote wrote, among other things, the Korean and Japanese flora)

Synonyme: *Anemóne hepática* L. var. *japónica* (NAKAI) OHWI (Jisaburo OHWI, 1905-1977; japanischer Botaniker, Autor der „Flora of Japan“ 1953, engl. 1965),

Anemóne hepática L. forma *mágn*a M. HIROE (Minosuke HIROE, 1914- Japanese botanist, special special field: spermatophytes/seed plants)

Hepática nóbilis var. *nippónica* NAKAI

= *Hepática nóbilis* var. *japónica* f. *variegáta* (MAKINO) KITAMURA (Siro KITAMURA, 1906-2002; japanischer Botaniker, Autor u.a. von „Flora of Afghanistan“, „Colored Illustrations of Woody Plants of Japan“)

Hepática asiática var. *japónica* ? u.a.

W. perennial, herbaceous perennial

Wz.

Bla. Basal leaves 2.5-7.5 cm br., shiny green or slightly mottled; die in winter and reappear after flowering. new after flowering

Mon.

Blü. Perigón; ♀, radiär, basal, uniflorous; 3 cup-like bracts (involucral leaves); 6-8 (and more) (and more) uniform bracts (tepals), pink, white, also purple, sometimes bicolor; pedunculate, pedicel long. **Gr.** meist weiß, auch bläulich oder rosafarben

N. Mostly white

Stbf. mostly white, also with reddish connective

Stbb. white, also yellow, pink, bluish or violet

Frkn. light greenish, hairy

Best.

Fr. hairy, 3-4 mm long.

. **Occurrence:** Japan: Hauptinsel Honshu, Insel Shikoku and north side of the island Kyushu (s Map below.)
Chromosomen 1): $2n = 14$ (diploide Art; Number of chromosomes in the cells)

. **Comments:** hépar (griech.) = Liver bzw. hepaticos (griech.) und hepaticus (lat.) = leberartig - s. Be remarks on *Hepática nóbilis*; *japónicus* (lat.) = japanisch; German name: Japanisches Leberblümchen;

japan.2): 雪割草, スハマソウ - Mi-sumi-sou (Three-corner plant - by leaf shape); old japanical name:

Yukiwari-sou ('snow breaker', 'plant that breaks through the snow' - after flowering during the remnants of snow, also 'First flower of early spring' or 'Flower under the snow').

The species is similar to *H. nóbilis* var. *nóbilis*, but apparently more variable; there are a variety of na natural numerous other names; in general, currently 3 - 4 forms or subspecies are

Japan native forms or subspecies are listed:

- *Hepática nóbilis* var. *japónica* f. *japónica*; jap. Name: Misumisou ('Triangle plant' by leaf shape)

- *Hepática nóbilis* var. *japónica* f. *variegáta* (MAKINO) KITAMURA; jap. name: Suhamasou ('Suhama-plant' after the leaf ornaments similar to a decorative ornament for a Japanese wedding ceremony).

- *Hepática nóbilis* var. *japónica* f. *mágn*a (M. HIROE) KITAMURA; jap. Name: Oomisumisou ('Large Triangular plant' after leaf shape)

- *Hepática nóbilis* var. *japónica* f. *pubéscens* (M. HIROE) KITAMURA; jap. Name: Kesuhamasou ('Be hairy suhama plant' after the hairy leaves) – **is also listed as an independent variety *Hepática nóbilis* var. *pubéscens* NAKAI, see there.**



`Enshou`



`Bojou`



`Fukurin`

To distinguish the natural forms of *Hepática nóbilis* var. *japónica*, the following table was established by Tomoo MABUCHI *) the following table:

Characters (Merkmale)	<i>f. japonica</i>	<i>f. variegata</i>	<i>f. magna</i>	<i>H. pubescens</i>
Chromosome No. (2n) (Chromosomen-Anzahl)	14	14	14	28
Leaf lobes (Blatt-Loben)	Acute (spitz)	Rounded (rundlich)	Rounded > Acute (rundlich-spitz)	Rounded (rundlich)
No. of petals (Blütenblatt-Anzahl)	Most (9-20) (die meisten)	Standard (6-10) (normal)	Variable (6-13) (variabel)	Least (6-10) (die wenigsten)
Petal shape (Blütenblatt-Form)	Slender (schmal)	Oval	Oval	Oval
Predominant petal colour in the wild (vorherrschende Blütenblatfarbe in der Natur)	Ivory (elfenbein)	White & Ivory (weiß & elfenbein)	Many (viele)	Many (viele)
No. of stamens (Anzahl Staubblätter)	Less (weniger)	Many (viele)	Most (die meisten)	Least (die wenigsten)
No. of pistils (Anzahl Stempel)	Less (weniger)	Many (viele)	Most (die meisten)	Least (die wenigsten)
Pistil colour (Stempelfarbe)	Yellow-green (gelb-grün)	Yellow-green (gelb-grün)	Yellow-green&Red-violet (gelb-grün & rot-violett)	Yellow-green&Red-violet (gelb-grün & rot-violett)
Altitude in metres (Höhe in Metern)	300-950	150-770	0-500	100-1260

„This table by Dr Tomoo Mabuchi (1998) is a guide to help simplify the differences between the various forms of Japanese hepaticas. Please remember it is a generalisation hepaticas by nature can be very variable and will not always conform to simple classification.”

*) Dr. Tomoo MABUCHI / National Institute of Genetics, Misima, Japan

However, for about 250 years, many natural forms of *Hepática nóbilis* var. *japónica* have been collected. After a declining interest at the end of the 19th century until after the middle of the 20th century, especially since about 1980, *Hepática* cultivation in Japan (especially by crossing with *Hepática nóbilis* v. *asiática*) has increased strongly..

Thus - among others by the famous Japanese *Hepática* breeder Kouichi IWAFUCHI ²⁾ - a large number of *Hepática* cultivars (especially with double flowers) were bred.

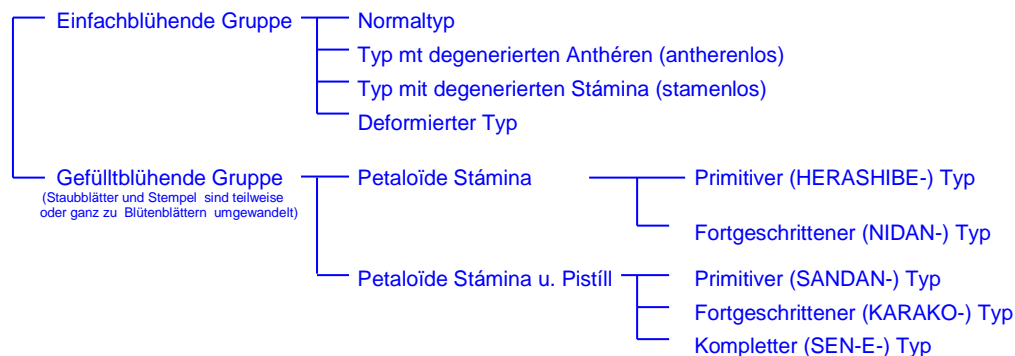
cultivated varieties of *Hepática* (especially with double flowers), which quickly increased the number of *Hepática* *Hepática* lovers in Japan increased rapidly

Hepática nóbilis v. *japónica* ist in ihrer Genetik offenbar etwas instabil, so dass es relativ einfach ist, eine einzigartige Vielzahl von Varietäten zu züchten.

Meanwhile there are several hundred to thousand cultivated forms of *Hepática nóbilis* var. *japónica*, esp. especially by crossing with *Hepática nóbilis* var. *asiática*. Forms with double, filled and double, double and color-variant flowers as well as with variegated leaves and with many flowing transitions.

In order to achieve a certain clarity, the following classification for Japanese *Hepática* was developed by IWAFUCHI & OIKAWA. Classification for Japanese *Hepática*

Classification established for Japanese hepática cultivars:



`Gyokudou`

This classification is certainly also applicable to cultivars of the other *Hepática* species - even if their cultivars do not reach by far the diversity of the *Japónica* cultivars....



`Dai Fukurin`

Hepática plants are popular with the Japanese as small potted plants that announce the coming of spring herald.

Thus, Hepática exhibitions are held annually in spring, attracting many visitors, e.g. in Niigata - in the mountains of Niigata Prefecture there is one of the main occurrences of *Hepática nob.* var. *japónica* with many forms - , in Nishiyama ('Hepatica/Yukiwarisou Festival') near Nagaoka, in the city of Monzen ('Noto Yukiwarisou Festival'), and in Tokyo by the Japanese Hepatica Society.

. **Culture, use:** Wintering in a cold house.

. **Literature:** Klaus Kaiser „Anemonen“ Verlag Eugen Ulmer GmbH & Co. Stuttgart, 1995, S. 105-106

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)

2) Herr Kouichi IWAFUCHI als Vizepräsident der International Hepatica Society übergab zusammen mit weiteren Mitgliedern dieser Organisation aus Japan dem Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Garden Wisley im Oktober 2002 etwa 1000 Exemplare von *Hepatica nóbilis* var. *japónica* f. *mágná* als Geschenk - s. RHS Journals „The Garden“ Okt. 2002



`Akebono`

Verbreitungskarte *H. nóbilis* v. *japónica* und Varietäten bzw. Formen
Quelle: www.niigata.info.maff.go.jp/niigata/tokusan/yukiwariso/tyukiwarisou



`Asahizuru`



`Anjyu`



`Aofuko`