



In 1862 Cleghorn undertook a series of remarkable excursions through the Western Himalaya: from Kalpa in the Sutlej Valley in the east (now in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh) to Peshawar in the far north-west (now in Pakistan). It is doubtful if any other man had previously seen so great a proportion of this great mountain range in a single season. His job was with the Punjab Government – to survey timber resources, then increasingly required for construction purposes including railway sleepers, and to advise on management and felling. The main timber species was the deodar, of which many majestic nineteenth-century specimens grow at RBGE, but several of the other species that Cleghorn encountered can be seen by garden visitors in cultivation.

Point	Accession Number	Botanical Name	Common Name
1	20120055*A	<i>Betula utilis</i> D. Don var. <i>jacquemontii</i> (Spach) H.J.P. Winkler	Jacquemont's birch
2	19644067*A	<i>Prunus cornuta</i> (Royle) Steudel	Himalayan bird-cherry
3	19841432*C	<i>Fraxinus xanthoxyloides</i> (G. Don) A. de Candolle	Crab, or Afghan, ash
4	19687273*A	<i>Cedrus deodara</i> (G. Don) G. Don	Deodar
5	1926065*A	<i>Aesculus indica</i> (Cambessèdes) Hooker	Indian or Himalayan horse-chestnut
6	19551033*A	<i>Pinus wallichiana</i> A.B. Jackson	Blue pine
7	19620908*A	<i>Rhododendron campanulatum</i> D. Don	
8	19784163*A	<i>Corylus jacquemontii</i> Decaisne	Jacquemont's hazel
9	19687273*B	<i>Cedrus deodara</i> (G. Don) G. Don	Deodar
10	19571187*A	<i>Platanus orientalis</i> L.	Eastern plane, chinara
11	19440447*K	<i>Picea smithiana</i> (Wallich) Boissier	Morinda or West Himalayan spruce
12	19832247*H	<i>Cupressus torulosa</i> D. Don	Twisted cypress



Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

0 20 40 80 Meters  
1 cm = 20 meters



## West-Himalayan Trees at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

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**1. *Betula utilis*** D. Don var. *jacquemontii* (Spach) H.J.P. Winkler  
Jacquemont's birch

This specimen was planted by Prince Charles, to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen, on 9 May 2012. It is the cultivar named 'Inverleith' and, when older, will develop handsome white bark. It is a western variety of the widespread Sino-Himalayan *B. utilis*. Its bark has traditionally used as a writing material (*utilis* = useful), and Cleghorn used it both for keeping rough forestry records and, in small strips, as field labels for herbarium specimens.

**2. *Prunus cornuta*** (Royle) Steudel  
Himalayan bird-cherry

The seed of this specimen was collected in Nepal in 1950 by Donald Lowndes. The plant has a widespread wild distribution from Afghanistan to SW China. It is closely related to the British bird-cherry (*Prunus padus*), and was first described (in the genus *Cerasus*) by Cleghorn's friend John Forbes Royle. The epithet (*cornutus* = horned) refers to horn-shaped galls, caused by an insect, which frequently affect the fruits of the tree.

**3. *Fraxinus xanthoxyloides*** (G. Don) A. de Candolle  
Crab, or Afghan, ash

This tree was grown from seed collected by Ron McBeath in the Miyar Valley, Lahul, India. It occurs from Afghanistan eastwards to Uttaranchal in India. In dry habitats, for example in the Sutlej Valley, it forms a shrub. Cleghorn recorded that it 'makes good walking sticks, hefts and handles' and the specific epithet refers to the colour of its yellow wood.

**4. & 9. *Cedrus deodara*** (G. Don) G. Don  
Deodar

The most highly valued of all the West-Himalayan timber species, but widely grown in British gardens and policies for its elegantly drooping boughs. The origin of the mature specimens at RBGE is unknown, but they may well have come from seed distributed in large quantity by the Saharunpur botanic garden in northern India. The native distribution of the tree is from Afghanistan eastwards to West Nepal.

**5. *Aesculus indica*** (Cambessèdes) Hooker  
Indian or Himalayan horse-chestnut

Cleghorn recorded this species in a list of the useful trees of Kullu and Kangra (the region around Dharamsala and Manali, now in Himachal Pradesh, India), where it grows between the altitudes of 1830 to 2440 metres, as 'a picturesque tree, wood sometimes used for furniture'. The origin of this specimen is unknown, but it is commonly cultivated in larger British gardens, having a native distribution from Afghanistan to Central Nepal.

**6. *Pinus wallichiana*** A.B. Jackson  
Blue pine

This tree is grown from seed collected in Nepal by Adam Stainton, William Sykes & John Williams in 1954. The commonest name recorded for this species by Cleghorn in the Western Himalaya was 'kail'; it was used there for construction purposes and as fuel. It is one of the pines in which the needles are borne in groups of five and is native from Afghanistan to East Nepal.

**7. *Rhododendron campanulatum*** D. Don

There are relatively few species of rhododendron in the Western Himalaya, but this is one of those observed by Cleghorn. Below the Sach Pass above Chamba, at an altitude of about 3300 metres, he noted and sketched a form with leaning trunks that he thought caused by the heavy load of snow that the shrubs received in winter. This specimen is grown from seed collected by Tom Spring-Smyth while serving as an officer with the Gurkhas in Nepal in 1962. The shrub, which has white or pink flowers spotted with red, is native from Kashmir to East Nepal.

**8. *Corylus jacquemontii*** Decaisne  
Jacquemont's hazel

Named for Victor Jacquemont, who travelled in the Himalaya in 1830. The tree, which has spectacularly lacerated cupules, is restricted to the Western Himalaya, occurring from Kashmir eastwards into western Nepal. Cleghorn recorded that its nuts were sold in the Simla bazaar. The origin of this fine specimen is unknown.

**10. *Platanus orientalis*** L.  
Eastern plane, chinara

This species is commonly considered to be one of the parents of the more commonly planted London plane (*Platanus × hispanica*). It is probably native from southern Italy eastwards to Iran, but is planted as far east as Uttaranchal in India, and forms very large trees in Kashmir. This specimen was grown from seed collected in Adana Province, south-central Turkey, by Peter Davis and Ian Hedge in 1957.

**11. *Picea smithiana*** (Wallich) Boissier  
Morinda or West Himalayan spruce

Characterised by its elegantly drooping branches, the seed of this specimen was collected in Uttaranchal, India by Lord Howick and William McNamara. It was named by Wallich for Sir James Edward Smith, who studied botany under John Hope in 1782. Its native distribution is from Afghanistan to Central Nepal.

**12. *Cupressus torulosa*** D. Don  
Twisted cypress

Cleghorn noted that this species had useful wood, but was uncommon in the Western Himalaya. Confusingly, this species was also known to the locals as 'deodar'. Its native distribution is from Kashmir to Central Nepal. These two specimens, which show the typical columnar growth form, are grown from seed collected in Nepal by Tony Schilling.