

A Tale of Two Sites

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While oak enthusiasts are hungry for acorns, there is something else that they need – information. We do not have to go too far back to find a time that this was not easy to come by. Unless you had access to a good library or were lucky owners of a “Camus” or “Trelease” there were few ways of finding information about obscure species. How times have changed.

As far as the International Oak Society is concerned, the provision of information about the genus to a wide audience on a large scale started when Piers Trehane became International Registrar for the genus *Quercus* on our behalf. Already with considerable skills and experience in the field of nomenclature, Piers started work on a database that has become a unique source of reference for us all. His website, the *Oak Names Checklist* at www.oaknames.org provides us with an online searchable database of oak names based on the epithet (thus, you may search for the species or cultivar epithet, not the whole name). Piers was particularly keen to document cultivars, as these were often the most difficult names to find information on, or even to know if they are published. The site is enhanced with scans of living material of many oak species provided by Jan De Langhe, as well as photographs of herbarium specimens including many Standard Specimens for new cultivars.

This is an ideal place to check the correct author, distribution and the spelling of oak names. (Is it *Q. eduardii*, or *Q. eduardi*?) Although the former looks correct it was named after Edward Palmer who collected the type specimen. His name was Latinised to Eduardus and hence the epithet is *eduardi*. In addition to this, it provides lists of oaks that grow in particular countries or even in regions within countries. If you are planning a collecting trip, oaknames.org can tell you what you might expect to find. The site also tells you where you can find a description of each species, details of its conservation status and a list some collections that are growing it.

Although Piers is no longer with us, we are still looking out for new names to add. A recent change was the addition of the recently published *Q. delgadoana* S. Valencia, Nixon & L.M. Kelly, a species that has been grown as *Q. eugeniifolia* since its introduction to cultivation in 1995.

The second online source of oak information that I would like to mention is the quite different oaksofchevithornebarton.com which complements Michael Heathcoat Amory's *The Oaks of Chevithorne Barton* (Adelphi, 2009). This site is dedicated to the plants growing in Michael's oak collection at Chevithorne Barton in Devon, England, which is a National Plant Collection. Information can be accessed about species descriptions, the origins of accessions, and the locations of individual plants within the garden and their size, often with measurements spanning several years. The site is brought to life with the beautiful photographs

by James MacEwen, who has ensured that as many as possible different oaks in the collection are featured, even if they are small seedlings in the nursery. The site is regularly updated from a database developed by Will Blackwell, ensuring that information on new plants is quickly available.



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Welcome to the OAK NAME CHECKLIST

Compiled by Piers Trehane for the International Oak Society,
International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for the genus *Quercus*.

The 2011 edition of the database is freely available for checking the status of oak names. Over the past year the general layout of the site been changed to improve navigation and there are many new features. Click on the "What's New" button above to find out more. Descriptive and historical information on oak cultivars will continue to be added over the year. Please revisit these pages from time to time to keep up to date with the data. The compiler would be glad to hear of any omissions and errors: please use the feedback button at the top of a page to contact him.

Are you interested in oaks? Why not become a member of the *International Oak Society*? For further details click on the icon below



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International Cultivar Registrar for the **International Oak Society**, the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for the genus *Quercus*.

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The data from these webpages are free for anyone to use as long as such use is not for commercial purposes. Should you wish to cite this database, please use the following citation: "Trehane, P. (2007 onwards), The Oak Names Checklist. Published on the internet <http://www.oaknames.org>. [accessed *]" (insert the year and date of your accession according to your own date format protocol).