

New Oak Cultivars from Belgium and France

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The *International Oak Society* was appointed by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) as International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for the genus *Quercus* in 1998. The system of ICRAAs aims to promote stability in the naming of cultivated plants by publishing lists of authenticated names in a number of important groups of plants which are commonly cultivated (TREHANE, 2007).

A selection which is represented by a single plant in a collection or nursery is not a cultivar; it is just a single specimen. A cultivar is a taxonomic unit made up of a number of plants with the same set of characters. Therefore, a single selected plant needs to be (vegetatively) propagated to obtain a certain number of identical plants. The number of new oak cultivars selected or raised by nurserymen or originating in botanical collections has risen rapidly over the last few years. The ICRA registers cultivar or Group names, describes the new cultivar and maintains records of the origin, characteristics, and history, without judgment of the value or distinctness of the cultivar. This is up to the breeder or finder of the cultivar.

The description of a new cultivar follows the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) (TREHANE, 1995). Despite a description of new cultivars, the act of establishment under the ICNCP is to fix new cultivar names. Commonly spoken, a new cultivar does not “exist” until it receives an established name.

A searchable database of registered names and Groups and guidelines for oak cultivar registration can be found at www.oaknames.org or from the International Oak Society homepage at www.internationaloaksociety.org

The new cultivars described and new oak cultivar names published here are accompanied by herbarium specimens, which are deposited as Standard Specimens in the Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL) at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, the official herbarium of the International Oak Society. The holdings of that herbarium, as well as the living collections, can be consulted online using the search facility from the Garden’s homepage at www.hilliergardens.org.uk.

Belgium

In Belgium, the well known dendrologist André Charlier, of Arboretum Rond Chêne in Esneux, selected during the last decade several oaks mainly from seedlings that were wild collected by him in eastern Europe. Some of his selections are already in the nursery trade in Belgium and The Netherlands, and thus need descriptions as new cultivars.

Quercus ‘**Arthenice**’ (Figure 1a). New cultivar and new cultivar name. Deciduous tree. Leaves up to 10.5 x 4.5 cm, edged with 8-9, acute, slightly

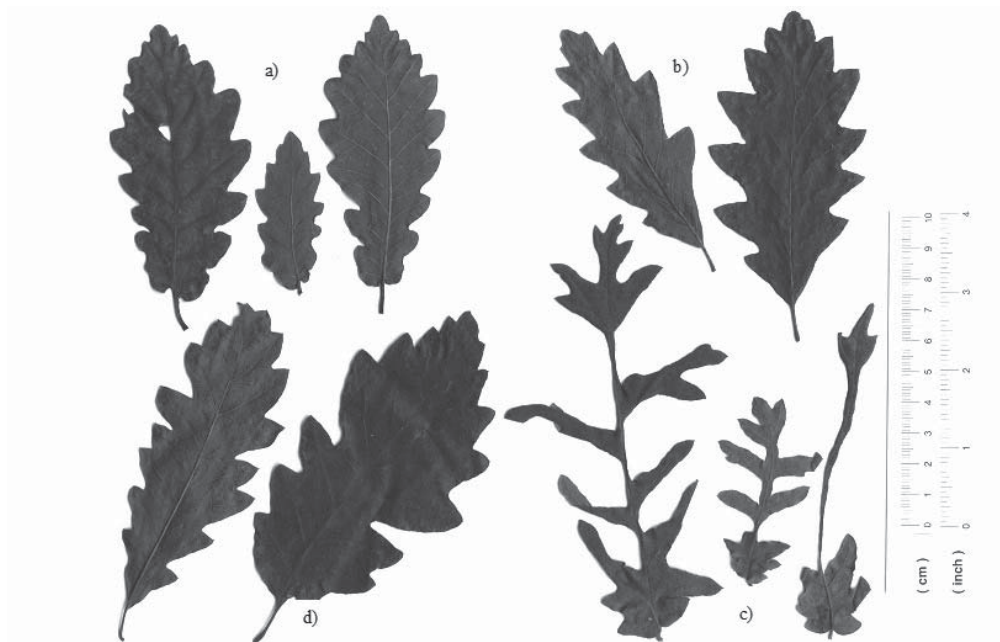


Fig. 1: a) *Quercus* 'Arthenice'; b) *Quercus cerris* 'Arnissa'; c) *Quercus cerris* 'Mercedes' d) *Quercus cerris* 'Slivno-Ravno'.

undulate lobes on each side, glossy dark green above and paler beneath, base cordate, often asymmetrical with a distinct red to brown-red petiole, 3-12 mm. The pointed acorns are up to 4 cm long and show, when ripe, a certain rusty color (not as brown as *Quercus robur* L.). Originated in 1987 from seed collected in the public park "Pincio" in Rome, Italy, under an oak showing a unique upright growth. The 29 year old plant has reached 9 x 4 m. It is possibly a hybrid of *Quercus canariensis* Willd. × *Quercus robur* × *Quercus petraea* (Matt.) Liebl. Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6812, E.J.Jablonski 08082009, 20 August 2008, collected together with Piers Trehane and André Charlier. Named by André Charlier after his daughter Catherine, of which Arthenice is an anagram. From the original plant, at Arboretum Rond Chêne, Esneux, Belgium.

***Quercus cerris* L. 'Arnissa'** (Figure 1b). New cultivar and new cultivar name. A form selected for its chestnut like large leaves and vigorous growth. Leaves up to 16 x 8 cm, with 4-7 acute lobes on each side, base symmetrical attenuate, petiole 8-18 mm. Originated 1978 from seed collected in Arnissa, Northern Greece. The 30 year old plant has reached 15 x 5 m. Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6804, E.J.Jablonski 08082007, 20 August 2008, collected together with Piers Trehane and André Charlier. Named by André Charlier after the village of Arnissa, which is situated along the shore of the Vegoriti-Lake in Kentriki Makedonia, Greece, at an elevation of 870 meters. From the original plant, at Arboretum Rond Chêne, Esneux, Belgium.

***Quercus cerris* L. 'Mercedes'** (Figure 1c). New cultivar and new cultivar name. A form selected for its deeply dissected leaves up to 14.5 x 7.5 cm, which are dull-green above, pale grey beneath and densely stellate-hairy on both

sides, base asymmetrical, auriculate, petiole very short, 1-4 mm. The dissection sometimes reaches to the midrib, with up to 2 cm space between the lobes. Originated around 1990, raised from seed collected in Central Turkey. The 18 year old plant has reached 4.5 x 3 m, showing a loosely upright growth. Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6805, E.J.Jablonski 08082003, 20 August 2008, collected together with Piers Trehane and André Charlier. Named by André Charlier after his wife Mercedes. Figure 2 shows André Charlier with the original plant of *Quercus cerris* 'Mercedes'. From the original plant, at Arboretum Rond Chêne, Esneux, Belgium.



Fig. 2: André Charlier with original *Quercus cerris* 'Mercedes'.

***Quercus cerris* L. 'Slivno-Ravno'** (Figure 1d). New cultivar and new cultivar name. A form selected for its very large, dark green leaves. Leaves up to 17 x 9.5 cm, green and rough above, paler beneath, with few stellate hairs on both sides, base asymmetrical, shortly attenuate, petiole 7-20 mm. Originated around 1972 raised from seed collected at Slivno-Ravno war memorial, on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, where the road to Sarajevo goes inland, in Croatia. The 36 year old tree has reached 12 x 6 m, with a good central leader. Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6806, E.J.Jablonski 08082005, 20 August 2008, collected together with Piers Trehane and André Charlier. Named by Charlier. From the original plant, at Arboretum Rond Chêne, Esneux, Belgium.

***Quercus cerris* L. 'Sveti Nahoum'** (Figure 3a). New cultivar and new cultivar name. A form selected for its large, green leaves and fast growth. Leaves

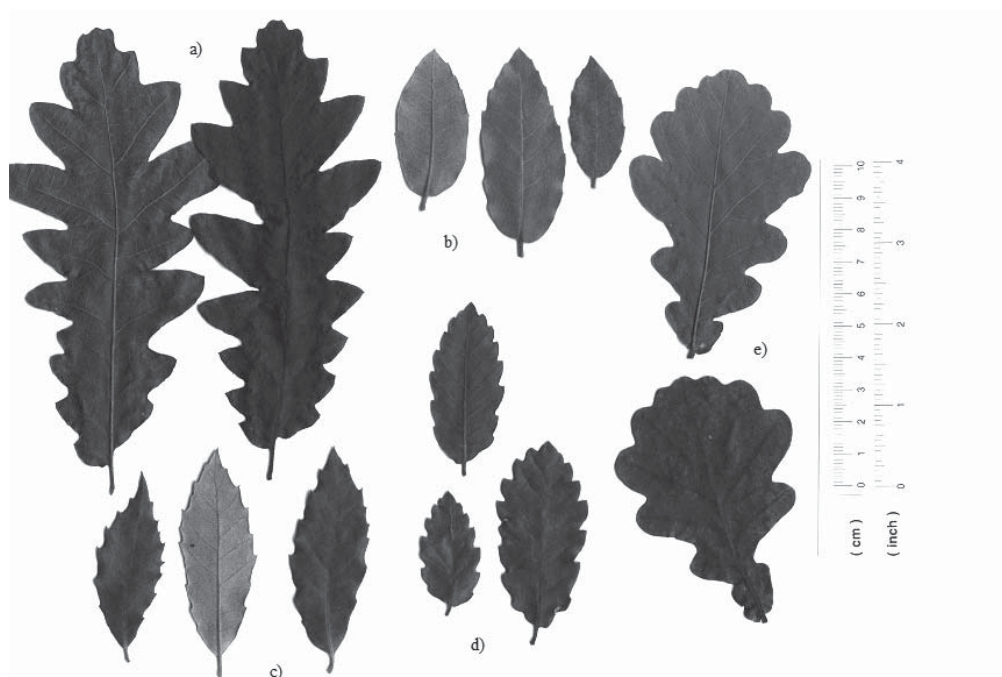


Fig. 3: a) *Quercus cerris* ‘Sveti Nahoum’; b) *Quercus ilex* ‘Despina’; c) *Quercus ilex* ‘Verduzzo’; d) *Quercus* ‘Sebrena’; e) *Quercus robur* ‘Montefiore’.

up to 14.5 x 7 cm, green and rough above, paler beneath, with few stellate hairs on both sides, base asymmetrical shortly attenuate to subcordate, petiole 5-17 mm. Originated 1972 from seed collected at Sveti Nahoum, Macedonia. The 36 year old plant has reached 14 x 4 m of quite narrow growth, which may be a result of the narrow space at the growing site. Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6807, E.J.Jablonski 08082006, 20 August 2008, collected together with Piers Trehane and André Charlier. Named by André Charlier after the orthodox monastery Sveti Nahoum, near the lake and city of Ochrid in Macedonia, former Republic of Yugoslavia. From the original plant, at Arboretum Rond Chêne, Esneux, Belgium.

Quercus ilex L. ‘**Despina**’ (Figure 3b). New cultivar and new cultivar name. Selected for its slow and narrow growth. An evergreen tree. Young shoots densely grey-hairy, as are the undersides of the leaves. Leaves lanceolate, up to 8 x 3 cm; dark green above and sparsely hairy; petiole 0.7-1 cm with a few spines in the upper half of the leaf blade, margin more or less undulate. Leaf apex apiculate. Originated around 1990, raised from seed of *Quercus ilex* ‘Fordii’ growing at Arboretum Rond Chêne, Esneux. The 18 year old plant has reached only 3 x 1 m. Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6808, E.J.Jablonski 08082002, 20 August 2008, collected together with Piers Trehane and André Charlier. Named by Charlier after the character “Despina” from Mozart’s opera “Cosi fan tutte” (in Greek mythology, the nymph “Despina” is the daughter of Poseidon). From the original plant, at Arboretum Rond Chêne, Esneux, Belgium.

Quercus ilex L. ‘**Verduzzo**’ (Figure 3c). New cultivar and new cultivar name. An evergreen tree that originated around 1974, young shoots grey-green hairy, as

are the undersides of the leaves. Leaves lanceolate, up to 5.5 x 2.8 cm; fresh green above and sparsely hairy; petiole 0.7-1 cm, margin more or less undulate with a few spines on the terminal half of the leaf blade. Leaf apex apiculate. The whole tree has a fresh green look. Raised from seed collected on the Dalmatian coast opposite the island of Rab in Croatia. Out of a batch of some 100 acorns, only this one germinated. The 20 year old plant has reached 7 x 4 m. Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6810, E.J.Jablonski 08082008, 20 August 2008, collected together with Piers Trehane and André Charlier. Named by Charlier after the fresh green wine called «Verduzzo» from Friaul province, Italy. From the original plant, at Arboretum Closerie Chêne, Esneux, Belgium.

***Quercus robur* L. (Fastigiata Group) ‘Montefiore’** (Figure 3d). New cultivar and new cultivar name. A form selected for narrow fastigiata growth. Leaves up to 9.5 x 5.7 cm, base cordate, petiole 1-4 mm. Fruits like typical *Quercus robur*. The original plant is a chance seedling on the grounds of the neighboring “Château du Rond Chêne” at Esneux, Belgium, reaching after some 50 years 20 x 2 m. Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6811, E.J.Jablonski 08082004, 20 August 2008, collected together with Piers Trehane and André Charlier. Named by André Charlier after the old owner of the castle Rond Chêne, Monsieur Montefiore. From the original plant, at Arboretum Château du Rond Chêne, Esneux, Belgium. Figure 4 shows the first graft made from the original tree, a 10 year old *Quercus robur* ‘Montefiore’ with André Charlier (left) and Piers Trehane (IOS oak registrar, right).



Fig. 4: André Charlier (left) and Piers Trehane (IOS ICRA oak registrar) with a graft of *Quercus robur* ‘Montefiore’.

Quercus 'Sebrena' (Figure 3e). New cultivar and new cultivar name. A form selected for its beautiful leaves and slow and upright growth, a seedling of *Quercus ilex* 'Fordii' and most possibly a hybrid with *Quercus pubescens* Willd. (= *Quercus* × *albescens* Rouy ex Camus). Leaves up to 7 x 3 cm, semi-deciduous, dark-green above, paler below, with very few stellate hairs above and densely hairy beneath, slightly undulate margin, base cuneate-subcordate, petiole 3-6 mm. Originated around 1972, raised from seed of *Quercus ilex* 'Fordii' growing at Arboretum Rond Chêne, Esneux. Out of the batch of seedlings this one was



Fig. 5: Frédéric Tournay (left) and Christophe Grasse (right) with original *Quercus macrocarpa* 'Anton de Bary' at Strasbourg Botanic Garden.

selected for its uniqueness. Another seedling resembled *Quercus* × *turneri* Willd. whilst others have the habit of *Quercus ilex* 'Fordii'. The 37 year old plant has reached only 4 x 1 m. Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6809, E.J.Jablonski 08082001, 20 August 2008, collected together with Piers Trehane and André Charlier. Named by Charlier after the operatic soprano Sebrana Gurinak. From the original plant, at Arboretum Rond Chêne, Esneux, Belgium.

France

Quercus macrocarpa Michx. 'Anton de Bary' (Figures 5, 6). New cultivar and new cultivar name. A selection made at Strasbourg Botanic Garden for its fastigiate growth. It was possibly planted around 1880 at the time of foundation of



Fig. 6: Original *Quercus macrocarpa* 'Anton de Bary' at Strasbourg Botanic Garden.

the garden. Leaf blade obovate to narrowly elliptic, 70 - 120 x 60 – 130 mm, base cuneate, margins moderately lobed, toothed, deepest sinuses near midleaf; petiole 12-20 mm. In September 2008 the tree was 30 x 10 meters, girth (at 100 cm): 295 cm. For nearly 110 years this tree remained “undiscovered” and was for decades labeled as *Quercus macranthera*. It shows a strong fastigate growth and thus was selected to be propagated vegetatively. Named by the present curator of the living collections, Frédéric Tournay, to commemorate the founding director of the Botanic Garden, Anton de Bary (1831 – 1888). Standard Specimen: Harold Hillier Herbarium (HILL), Standard Specimen No. 6650, Frédéric Tournay 20070007, August 2007. In cultivation in nurseries in France and The Netherlands. Figure 5 shows the trunk of the original tree with Frédéric Tournay (curator of Strasbourg Botanic Garden) and Christophe Grasse (head of Arboretum); figure 6 the original tree situated in the Garden.

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References

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