

Abeliophyllum

Abeliophyllum (**White Forsythia**, or **Korean Abelialeaf**) is a monotypic genus of flowering plants in the olive family, *Oleaceae*. It consists of one species, *Abeliophyllum distichum* Nakai, endemic to Korea, where it is endangered in the wild, occurring at only seven sites. It is related to *Forsythia*, but differs in having white, not yellow, flowers.

It is a deciduous shrub growing to 1–2 m tall. The leaves are opposite, simple, 6–10 cm long and 3–4.5 cm wide, pubescent both above and below. The flowers are produced in early spring before the new leaves appear; they are white and fragrant, about 1 cm long, with a four-lobed corolla. The fruit is a round, winged samara 2–3 cm diameter.

It is cultivated as an ornamental plant in Europe and North America.

1 Conservation status

In 1998, a review of the plant's conservation status found that "it is close to extinction and qualifies for the IUCN Category of 'Critically Endangered', indicating a high risk of extinction in the near future."^[1] but as of 2009 it has not yet been formally assessed for the IUCN Red List.

2 References

- [1] Kim, Y. S. and Maunder, M. (1998). "Plants in Peril, 24: *Abeliophyllum distichum*". *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* **15** (2): 141–146. doi:10.1111/1467-8748.00155.

- University of British Columbia Botanical Gardens: *Abeliophyllum distichum*

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