

prophylls of these buds were not formed until the buds were 'allowed' to sprout, e.g. after the main shoot had wilted. Syllepsis was common in *S. amygdaloides* and effected the resprouting ability. The significantly different growth pattern resulted in lower coppicing ability and productivity in *S. amygdaloides* compared to *S. viminalis* and *S. eriocephala*.

Nomenclature of the promising biomass coppice willows, *S. × sericans* Tausch ex Kern., *S. dasyclados* Wimm. and *S. 'Aquatica Gigantea'*

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S. × sericans Tausch ex Kern., the collective hybrid between *S. caprea* L. × *S. viminalis* L. is a tree 6 m high producing particularly vigorous coppice shoots. It is the basis of many of our current selections for biomass and would be an important component of any breeding programme. The hybrid of *viminalis* with *cinerea*, *S. × smithiana* Willd. is more rare than with *caprea*. Further a vigorous male clone grown in commerce in Western Europe as *S. × smithiana* is misnamed. Two clones obtained from different British nurseries as *S. × smithiana* and which differ appreciably in vigour and phenology are in fact both hybrids of *caprea* × *viminalis*, i.e. × *sericans*. Triple hybrids of *viminalis* × *caprea* × *cinerea* exist (Meikle 1952, 1978). It is within this complex that preferred biomass willows like *dasyclados* Wimm., *calodendrom* Wimm. have their affinity. These willows and the so-called *S. 'Aquatica Gigantea'* are being widely planted in biomass trials and an examination of their problematical nomenclature is therefore timely.

References

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Francis Buchanan White (1842–94) and the revision of the British willows

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Francis Buchanan White (1842–94) of Perth, Scotland, entered the University of Edinburgh in 1860 to study medicine, graduating in 1864. Following his marriage in