

**‘Origami’ – a new cultivar of common lilac
(*Syringa vulgaris* L.)**

‘Origami’ – nowy kultywar lilaka pospolitego
(*Syringa vulgaris* L.)

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ABSTRACT: A new cultivar of lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) selected in the Kórnik Arboretum, Poland, is described. It is very easy to recognize by its pink peculiar flowers, whose petals are strongly tucked down. The shrub is healthy and blooms profusely every year.

Key words: breeding, Kórnik, Oleaceae, ornamental shrub, *Syringa vulgaris* ‘Maréchal Foch’, Władysław Bugała

Syringa vulgaris can serve as a good example of species with huge potential to form morphological flower variants differing from each other by corolla color and/or structure. About 2000 garden varieties of lilacs have been described so far (Fiala 1988), so it is very difficult to select some new distinct morphotype about which one could say that it is certainly different from those already known. However, it sometimes happens and such a case is described below.

***Syringa vulgaris* ‘Origami’ – a new cultivar name (Figs 1–7).**

Dense shrub up to 3 m tall, suckering due to subterranean rhizomes. Adult twigs glabrous, olive-brown. Leaves up to 11 cm long, 8–10 cm broad, broadly ovate, usually truncate to rounded at base, acuminate at apex. Inflorescence a conical ± compact panicle, up to 26 cm long; axis minutely glandular, here and there visible between flowers. Panicles appearing at 1–2(–3) uppermost nodes of the stem. Flowers simple, pink (The R.H.S. Colour Chart 1966: 76 b–c), (30–)32–38 mm in diameter; petals elliptic, ob-

tuse or acute, patent just after opening but soon strongly tucked down; stamens deeply inserted in the corolla tube, not visible. Perianth caducous after flowering. Fruits usually few.

The cultivar name ‘Origami’ refers to flowers of described plants which look as if they were made with the *origami* method – Japanese art of paper folding. Similar flowers can rarely be observed in some inflorescences of several other cultivars, but only at the end of flowering.

Syringa vulgaris ‘Origami’ is a nice, unusual lilac, easily recognizable by its pink, strange flowers. The shrub is vigorous, healthy and blooms profusely every year. Perianth falls off just after flowering, also its few fruits do not disfigure the shrubs, so removal of dry inflorescences is not necessary. The cultivar description is based on several plants growing in the Kórnik Arboretum, Poland. The maternal plant, now about 30 years old (Fig. 1), was selected there by professor Władysław Bugała from among seedlings of *Syringa vulgaris* ‘Maréchal Foch’. Comparative herbarium material (cultivar standard) is kept in the Herbarium of the Institute of Dendrology in Kórnik (Fig. 7).



Fig. 1. The oldest specimen of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Origami' in the Kórnik Arboretum. The shrub selected by W. Bugala from among seedlings of the cultivar 'Maréchal Foch' (Photo P. Kosiński).



Fig. 2. Top of the inflorescence in close-up (Photo P. Kosiński).



Fig. 3. Top of the young inflorescence – petals tuck down on the second day after opening (Photo P. Kosiński).



Fig. 4. Inflorescence of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Origami' (Photo P. Kosiński).



Fig. 5. Perianth of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Origami' seen from the side (upper row), from above (middle row) and from the bottom (bottom row) (Photo P. Kosiński).

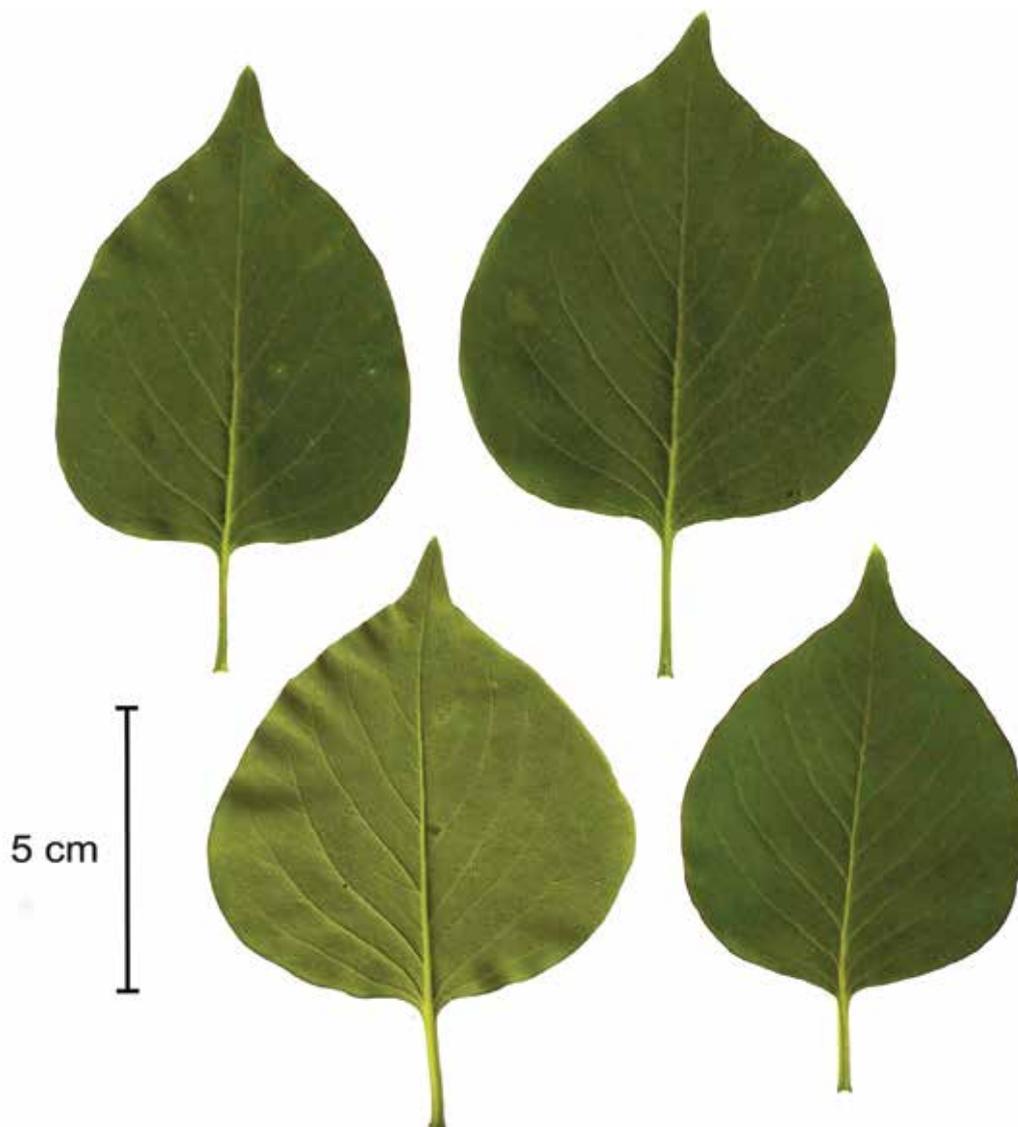


Fig. 6. Leaves of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Origami' (Photo P. Kosiński).

Acknowledgments

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Fig. 7. *Syringa vulgaris* 'Origami'. Herbarium standard of the cultivar – KOR 51728 (Photo P. Kosiński).