

‘Gelsomina’ – a new rose cultivar (*Rosa* L., Rosaceae)

‘Gelsomina’ – nowy kultywar róży (*Rosa* L., Rosaceae)

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ABSTRACT: *Rosa* ‘Gelsomina’ is a low suckering shrub forming colonies, characterized by a densely prickly-setose lower part of stems, narrow leaflets and semi-double pink flowers. It appeared spontaneously in the Kórnik Arboretum (Poland), probably as a seedling of the ‘Thérèse Bugnet’ cultivar.

Key words: Kórnik Arboretum, ornamental shrub, *Rosa arkansana* f. *plena*, *Rosa blanda*, *Rosa* ‘Thérèse Bugnet’, *Rosa* ‘Metis’

***Rosa* ‘Gelsomina’ – a new cultivar name** (Figs 1–4).

Shrub up to 1.7 m tall, suckering, forming colonies; stems erect or spreading, glabrous; larger prickles up to 7 mm long, broad-based, patent to slightly declined, grading into very numerous bristles and needle-like aciculi; in the uppermost part of the stem and on flowering lateral branchlets prickles and aciculi absent or few. Infrastipular prickles not prominent. Leaves 5–9-foliolate; leaflets up to 5 cm long, 1.5 cm broad, narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, acute at ends, simply serrate, in the basal 1/4–1/3 entire, dull green and glabrous above, subglabrous beneath; stipules broad with flared auricles. Inflorescences 1–10-flowered on lateral branchlets along previous year stems and with up to 25-flowered corymbs at the end of annual stems. Pedicels 2.5–3(–5) cm long, glabrous, smooth; bracts 1–2, lanceolate, smooth. Flowers 5–5.5 cm in diameter, semi-double with about 25 petals, rosette-like; hypanthium globose, smooth; neck absent; sepals entire or rarely with short lateral appendages, deflexed, eglandular; petals pink (R.H.S. Red Group 55B; The R.H.S. Colour Chart 1966), often with a longitudinal white streak, inner ones incurved,

curled; stamens numerous. Styles numerous, densely hairy, forming a large head. Orifice 3–4 mm broad. Ovaries basiparietal. Fruit undeveloped.

Eponymy: Gelsomina is the heroine of the Fellini’s film “La strada” – with the unforgettable role of Giulietta Masina.

The cultivar is easily recognized especially due to such characteristics as densely prickly-bristly stems, narrow, simply serrate leaflets, broad stipules, entire sepals and a pink semi-double rosette-like corolla. Its origin is difficult to explain. It was noticed among roses of the Kórnik Arboretum collection about ten years ago, when it started to blossom for the first time. It was then thought to be a spontaneous mutation of *Rosa blanda* Ait., however, it differs from this species by densely prickly and bristly stems. It seems more probable that it is a seedling of the ‘Thérèse Bugnet’ cultivar growing nearby which is a complex hybrid of *R. acicularis* Lindl., *R. amblyotis* C.A.Mey. and *R. rugosa* Thunb. (Krüssmann 1974). It differs from ‘Gelsomina’ by more uniform prickles, broader, distinctly hairy leaflets with ± impressed veins and by flowers with more numerous petals. *Rosa* ‘Metis’ – a hybrid of ‘Thérèse Bugnet’ with *R. nitida* Willd. (Schowalter 1966) – also



Fig. 1. *Rosa* 'Gelsomina' in flowers, Kórnik Arboretum, June 2016 (Photo J. Zieliński).

seems to be similar to "Gelsomina" but its leaflets are shining and hypanthia are covered with stalked glands.

Due to densely prickly stems *Rosa* 'Gelsomina' can also be associated with *R. arkansana* Porter f. *plena* W.H. Lewis, known only from one locality in Saskatchewan (Lewis 1958). According to Lewis (l.c.), it is "a form typical of *R. arkansana* except that as many as twenty petals are found in a single flower". The new cultivar differs from the above species by stronger prickles (up to 7 mm), narrower terminal leaflets (up to 15 mm) and from its f. *plena* by more numerous petals (c.25).

Rosa 'Gelsomina' is a healthy and hardy plant. It grows best on its own roots in full sun and on well-drained soil. The removal of older stems after flowering is recommended.

A comparative herbarium material (cultivar standard) is kept in the Herbarium of the Institute of Dendrology in Kórnik (KOR 51880).

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Fig. 2. Flowers of *Rosa* 'Gelsomina' in close-up (Photo J. Zieliński).



Fig. 3. Stems of *Rosa* 'Gelsomina'; on the right – brown previous year's stems, on the left – green annual stems (Photo J. Zieliński).



Fig. 4. Herbarium standard of *Rosa* 'Gelsomina' (KOR 51880; photo Piotr Kosiński).