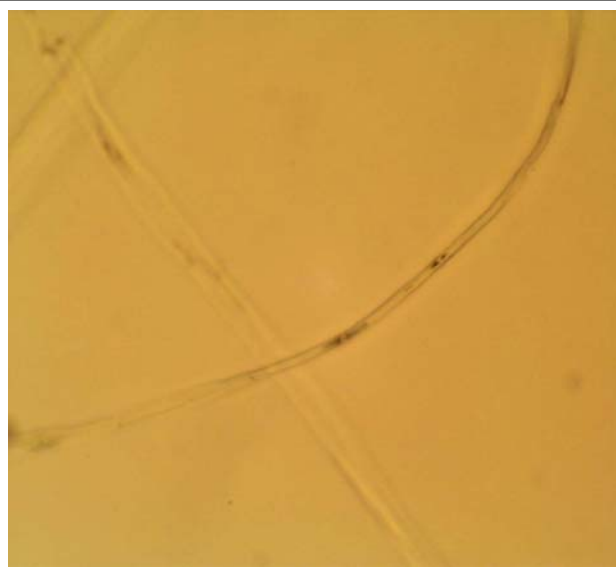


Gampi

Chemical Formula, *Diplomorphs sikokiana*
Diplomorpha canescens or *Wikstreomia retusa*



Microscopic appearance at x500 mag



Microscopic appearance under slightly crossed polars

Dates of Use

Ancient times up to the present day in Japan and the Far East in general.

Summary of Manufacture

Plant family *Thymelaeaceae*. The plant grows in mountain regions where it grows up to 1 - 1.5m in height. It cannot be cultivated which makes the resulting paper very expensive. Gampi is regarded as one of the most refined Japanese fibers.

Harvested fibers are around 2.5 to 5.3 mm in length.

Fibers are used from the branches which are harvested from the plant in the Spring.

As with most paper fiber preparation, the leaves are removed and the fiber stripped from the cored of the branch. The inner bark is removed from the outer by scraping and/ or peeling and the fibers soaked and cooked depending upon their intended use.

Brief History of Usage

Used for copy paper, tracing paper and for wood-block printing since 850 AD. The paper is also easily dyed and decorated and can be found as the support for screens, fans and parasols. Phillipene gampi is almost identical to Japanese but the fiber is courser due to the climate, producing an off-white, tan paper. Naturally grows in Japan, Nepal and Hawaii. (India??)

Surface Morphology / Microscopic Description

The paper is fine but strong with a warm tone, sheen and a pronounced rattle when handled. The sheet has visible chain and laid lines. The fibers are long, thin and regular in width with occasional markings or nodes. Cross striations are fine and well spaced but may group and extend across the fiber. The lumen is wide and has narrow, defined walls. The cell ends are roundish. The white bark comprises about twenty-two percent hemicellulose and 3 per cent lignin.

Aging Characteristics

Gampi fibers make strong paper with a lustrous sheen and a warm greenish/ yellowish hue.

Paper which appears quite green probably contains more fibers from the inner bark only. That which appears tan in hue with flecks is likely to be a mixture of outer and inner bark.

Gampi has strong adhesive power between the fibers and the sheet is acid free.

The paper also reputedly has a strong resistance to insects. The latter properties make the paper resilient to deterioration.

It is also reputed to need less addition of binding mucilage added to the pulp as the fiber seems to retain a great deal of its own even after cooking.

Technical Examination Techniques/ Chemical Staining Tests

Turns green/ yellow with the Hertzberg stain.