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John Grimshaw has been interested in plants all his life, as both gardener and botanist. He holds a first class degree in botany and doctorate in African forest ecology from Oxford University. African plants remain his principal botanical interest. He is however fascinated by all plants and will attempt to grow anything in the garden. The origins of garden plants are a particular fascination and he has travelled widely to see plants growing in habitat. His first book was *The Gardener's Atlas* (1998), recounting the journeys plants have made from their source to our gardens.

Having worked in the Netherlands for the seed company K. Sahin, Zaden. B.V., where he was responsible for developing perennials for the seed trade, he is currently Gardens Manager at Colesbourne Park, Gloucestershire. There he is responsible for maintaining and developing the historic Elwes family garden, especially the snowdrop collection. He is co-author of the monograph *Snowdrops* (2002) by Matt Bishop, Aaron Davis and John Grimshaw, published by his own publishing company, Griffin Press. Between 2004-2009 he was principal author of a major book on trees introduced in the past 35 years, entitled *New Trees, Recent Introductions to Cultivation*, sponsored by the International Dendrology Society. It was published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in May 2009.

He is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Advisory Committee on Nomenclature and Taxonomy, and Woody Plant Committee. John is particularly proud to be an honorary elder of the Masai community of Lerang'wa, Tanzania.