

Notes

A NEW LARCH CULTIVAR¹

Chris Kelly

John F. Kennedy Arboretum, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

¹ Extracted from Moorea Vol. 8 (1989) with kind permission of the editor.

***Larix kaempferi* (Lambert)
Carriere 'Hanan'**

Deciduous coniferous tree, differing from the typical form in its weeping

habit; branches pendulous; leaves flat, to c. 20mm long; <1mm broad, with two stomatic bands beneath. Voucher specimen: DBN-cult. Kennedy Arboretum,



Figure 1:
Larix kaempferi cv.
Hanan – the original
tree photographed in
autumn 1986.

New Ross, *Chris Kelly*, 1988, 10.00.

Larix kaempferi 'Hanan' has been selected in the John F. Kennedy Arboretum, New Ross, County Wexford. The original tree (Figure 1) is in cultivation in the Arboretum (immediately adjacent to the collection of *Potentilla fruticosa* (Rosaceae) collection), and young plants are in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

Seeds of *Larix kaempferi* were obtained by the Irish State Forest Service in 1956 from Nagano, Japan, and were sown at the Camolin Forest Nursery, County Wexford. In 1965 a batch of seedlings was transferred to the Kennedy Park for planting in a shelter belt. Within a few years one seedling differed markedly from the others. This unique seedling has a slim habit and markedly pendulous branches. It has

been named after Anthony M. S. Hanan, the first director of the John F. Kennedy Arboretum who for eight years, until his untimely death, shaped this area of farmland into an arboretum of international standing.

L. kaempferi 'Hanan' is to be registered with the International Registration Authority. One other weeping cultivar of *L. kaempferi* recorded – 'Pendula' is described as having particularly drooping branchlet systems, but Rushforth (1987) dismisses it as being only 'quite interesting but often no improvement on a normal seedling'. Grafting of 'Pendula' can produce a tree with branchlets a little more pendulous than usual, if a leader develops. In 'Hanan' the branches are pendulous, not the branchlets, so the whole habit of the tree is distinctive.