



APPLICATIONS UNDER EXAMINATION

PEAR

PEAR (*Pyrus communis*)

Proposed denomination: 'Little Elephant'
Application number: 08-6324
Application date: 2008/05/01
Applicant: Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Kentville, Nova Scotia
Agent in Canada: Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Lacombe, Alberta
Breeder: Charles G. Embree, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Kentville, Nova Scotia

Varieties used for comparison: 'Earlibrite' and 'Clapp's Favourite'

Summary: 'Little Elephant' has strong branching while it is medium in the reference varieties. The internode length on the one year old shoots is long in 'Little Elephant' while it is medium length in the reference varieties. 'Little Elephant' has a small leaf blade length/width ratio while it is medium in the reference varieties. The curvature of the longitudinal axis of the leaf blade is strong in 'Little Elephant' while it is medium in the reference varieties. 'Little Elephant' begins flowering later in the season than 'Earlibrite'. The sepal of 'Little Elephant' is long while it is short in 'Earlibrite' and medium length in 'Clapp's Favourite'. 'Little Elephant' has a large flower petal while it is medium sized in 'Clapp's Favourite'. The fruit of 'Little Elephant' is long while it is short in 'Earlibrite' and medium length in 'Clapp's Favourite'. 'Little Elephant' has a medium to large sized fruit while it is small in the reference varieties. 'Little Elephant' has a smaller amount of red overcolour on the fruit than the reference varieties. The area of russet around the stalk cavity of the fruit of 'Little Elephant' is greater than in the reference varieties. 'Little Elephant' has a thicker fruit stalk than 'Earlibrite'. The time of maturity for consumption in 'Little Elephant' is later than the reference varieties.

Description:

TREE: medium vigour, strong branching, semi-upright habit, beginning of flowering is mid season, time of maturity for consumption is medium

ONE YEAR OLD SHOOTS: wavy growth, long internode, orange brown colour on sunny side, many lenticels

VEGETATIVE BUD: acute apex, in relation to the shoot is slightly held out, medium sized bud support

YOUNG SHOOTS: weak anthocyanin colouration of growing tip, sparse pubescence on upper third

LEAF: outwards attitude in relation to shoot, small length/width ratio, truncate base, acute to right angled apex, medium length of pointed tip, crenate margin, shallow incisions, strong curvature of longitudinal axis

PETIOLE: long, stipules present, short distance of stipules from basal attachment

FLOWER: bud mainly on spurs, medium length bud, stigma at the same level as stamens

SEPALS: long, recurved in relation to corolla, erect at harvest

PETALS: touching, large, circular, rounded base, short claw

FRUIT: green brown sepals on immature fruit, long, maximum diameter medium, medium length/diameter ratio, position of maximum diameter is slightly clearly towards the calyx, medium to large size, symmetric in longitudinal cross section, concave profile to sides, absent to very small area of russet on cheeks

SKIN: green ground colour, very small to small amount of light to dark red over colour

STALK: thick, medium to strong curvature, oblique attitude in relation to axis of the fruit, stalk cavity absent, large area of russet around stalk attachment

EYE BASIN: shallow, medium width at harvest, embossed relief of area around at harvest, small to medium area of russet around

FLESH: medium texture, medium firmness, juicy

SEED: elliptic

Origin and Breeding: 'Little Elephant' (experimental designations KP-5 , S22-44-04) was developed at the Agriculture & Agri-Food Research Station in Kentville, Nova Scotia. The initial cross was made by Dr. A. D. Crowe and Doug Crouse in

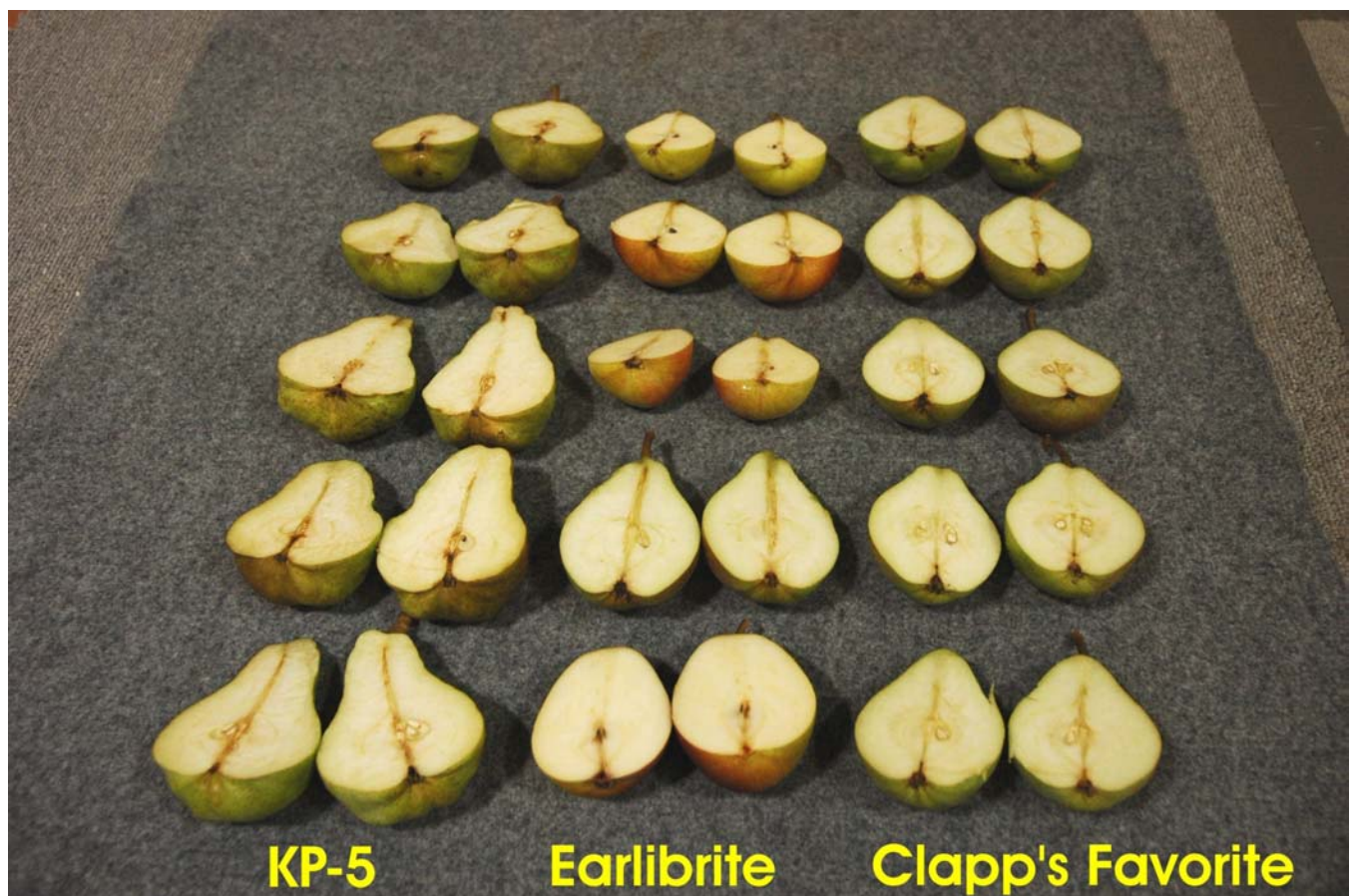
1970 between the cultivars ‘Beiershmit’ and ‘Comice’. The selected seedlings were grafted on ‘Bartlett’ rootstocks for further evaluation. The selection criteria included fruit size, fruit quality and time of maturity.

Tests and Trials: Tests and trials were conducted in 2008 at the Agriculture & Agri-Food Horticulture Research Center in Kentville, Nova Scotia. There were 6 trees of ‘Little Elephant’ and ‘Clapp’s Favourite’ and 5 trees of ‘Earlibrite’ in trial. The trial was planted in 1996 with a RCB design, with trees spaced 3 meters apart within the row and rows spaced 4.75 meters apart.

Comparison table for ‘Little Elephant’

	‘Little Elephant’	‘Earlibrite’*	‘Clapp’s Favourite’*
<i>Fruit length (mm)</i>			
mean	90.677	78.207	84.611
std. deviation	7.277	5.781	4.255

*reference varieties



Pear: ‘Little Elephant’ (left) with reference varieties ‘Earlibrite’ (centre) and ‘Clapp’s Favorite’ (right)



Pear: 'Little Elephant' (left) with reference varieties 'Earlibrite' (centre) and 'Clapp's Favorite' (right)