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Janczewski's collections of Ribes sp. at Botanic Garden, Museum and Herbarium of the Institute of Botany of the Jagiellonian University, Cracow

EDWARD JANCZEWSKI (1846–1918) was a plant taxonomist, anatomist and morphologist working at the Jagiellonian University. One of his most important works was Monographie des Groseilliers (Geneve, 1907), which contains the results of his work on genus Ribes. It describes 133 species and 21 hybrids of currants and gooseberries, according to Janczewski approximately half of world's taxa. Many species were first described by him. This monograph is still one of the most important publications regarding taxonomy of genus Ribes.

For his work Janczewski maintained in Botanic Garden of Cracow a vast collection of different species of Ribes from all around the world. It contained (including hybrids) over 300 specimens. Part of this collection still exists and probably contains some specimens planted by Janczewski himself. The specimen Ribes warszewiczii Janczewski 1904 is probably the same specimen on which the taxon was described.

Apart from the living plants many other materials were preserved. Two particular groups are worth noting. One is a library of over 400 microscope slides, preserved at the Botanical Museum of the Jagiellonian University. Most preparations were probably made using plants from the Botanic Garden. The other important part of Janczewski's collection is his herbarium, preserved at the Herbarium of the Jagiellonian University (KRA). It consists of over 600 sheets and includes some type specimens of Ribes. The herbarium includes species from Europe, Asia, North and South America, many of them collected by Janczewski himself. Others were obtained thanks to his worldwide contacts with herbariums, botanic gardens and scientists.

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