Summary: A tree with much branched catkins was found in *Salix futura* from Honshu, central Japan.

A seedling of *Salix futura* Seemen was growing at the nursery in Tama Forest Science Garden, Tokyo. The author layered it and planted a new sapling in his own willow garden. The sapling was female and bore malformed catkins, which branched into several parts at the apices (Fig. 1). Such malformation was more distinct at the end of branch.

While the wild type of *Salix futura* bore perfectly oval floral buds, the buds of this tree were distorted (Fig. 2) and malformation became more noticeable as the floral buds developed into infructescence through inflorescence.

There were some morphological differences between the wild type and this tree. While the wild type bore leaves 8–18 cm long, 6–8 cm wide, this tree had smaller leaves 7–9 cm long, 3–3.5 cm wide. Furthermore the tree had thinner branches than the wild type and the branches bent slightly downward at the apices. The tree reached a height of 2 m in cultivation while the wild type grew to 2–4 m.

Other traits, such as the shape of leaf blades, stipules, the color of catkins and floral buds, and the tree shape, are same as the wild type, *S.
futura, as well as the presence of conspicuous elevated longitudinal striations on sapwood.

Voucher specimen: JAPAN. Tokyo Pref., Hachioji, Nishi-asakawa-machi, cultivated at Yoshiyama Willow Garden (Y-m-1), April 2007, Hiroshi Yoshiyama 368057 (TUS).

Note: This tree is propagated by layerage as it does not do well by cutting. The original tree at Tama Forest Science Garden died and the trees grow only at the author’s garden.

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References

Fig. 2. Winter floral bud of a malformed tree of Salix futura.