



*Previous pages: The Buddleia was just one of many hundreds of plants recorded by Père David during his Chinese travels.*

*Above: Even a hard-bitten naturalist like Père Armand David wasn't immune to the engaging appeal of the panda, a new species to him, and one that he described as being 'easily the most pretty I have come across.'*



*Left and above: It's hard for us to imagine anything more winningly winsome than a young panda, with its air of comic melancholy. Yet nineteenth-century naturalists had no qualms about collecting panda skins.*