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On the Cover
Early Sommerville collected Vivian Abney in the mid-1980s. The collection location was not noted and parentage is unknown, based on the name registration information filed. The corolla is tubular funnel-shaped, 1.6 x 1.25" wide, with wavy-edged margins. 16 flowers per flat truss. Calyx lobes are 0.2" long, grayish yellow green (19413). Flower color is deep purplish pink (5413) in bud. As they open, the inside color is strong purplish pink (5513) with slightly lighter pink down the center of each lobe and a conspicuous light orange yellow (19A) dorsal blotch; the outside color is light purplish pink (55C). The truss is 1.5" x 1.5" wide. The leaves are elliptic with a broadly acute apex, cuneate base, and flat margins: they are semi-glossy and moderate yellow green (146B) on the top surfaces. The shrub is 4.5 x 6 wide in about 15 years. Habit is intermediate. Flowering period is early. Plant is hardy to at least -6F. (Photo by Earl Sommerville; registration information provided by Mrs. Jay Murray, Registrar of Plant Names for North American for the American Rhododendron Society)