

Three Rhododendron Species

BY

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Descriptions in English of two of the following species of *Rhododendron* have already been published by the *Rhododendron Society*. The full description of the third, *Rh. venator*, was among notes left by the late Mr. H. F. Tagg, Edinburgh.

Rhododendron auritum Tagg. Sp. nov.

Species seriei Boothii ex affinitate *Rh. aurei*, Franch. a quo calycis minoris lobis angustis reflexis atque corolla minore haud laete flava recedit.

Frutex circ. 3 m. altus. Folia subcoriacea petiolo 5-8 mm. longo dense lepidoto munita; lamina elliptica vel lanceolata, 2.5-5 cm. longa, 1-2 cm. lata, apice obtusa conspicue mucronata, basi late cuneata vel subrotundata, supra laete virens dense lepidota, infra squamis fere contiguis induta, venis lateralibus obscuris. Inflorescentia 4-7-flora umbellata, pedicellis circ. 1.3 cm. longis dense lepidotis epilosis. Calyx circ. 5 mm. longus basi carnosus dense lepidotus, lobis 5 ovatis circ. 4 mm. longis reflexis dorso sparsim lepidotis margine eciliatis sed plus minusve lepidotis. Corolla tubuloso-campanulata, circ. 2.5 cm. longa, alba, roseo-suffusa, tubo 1.3-1.5 cm. longo extra sparsim lepidoto, lobis 5 circ. 8 mm. longis et 7 mm. latis. Stamina 10, inaequalia 1-2 cm. longa, basi villosa, antheris vix 1 mm. superantibus. Gynaeceum 2-2.5 cm. longa, ovario 4 mm. longo dense albo-lepidoto, stylo gracili recto vel paululo curvato fere ad medium lepidoto. Capsula ovoidea, 8-10 mm. longa, 5 mm. lata, calyce persistente cincta.

SOUTH-EASTERN TIBET.—Tsangpo Gorge, near Pemako-chung. Alt. 8,000 ft. Shrub of 10 ft. In sheltered clefts of the cliff above the river. Truss 5-7 flowered. The bark flakes off, exposing the coppery red smooth stem, branches flop over unless supported. Grows thickly, forming a bush. In fruit, 18th November 1924. F. K. Ward No. 6278.

A description in English of this species was published in the *Rhododendron Society Notes* (1929-31), Vol. iii, No. 5 (1932), p. 278. The truss and flowers were described from cultivated specimens under Ward's No. 6278 growing in the garden of Sir John Ramsden at Gerard's Cross, Bucks., and in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, from plants which flowered in 1930.

Rhododendron recurvoides Tagg et Ward. Sp. nov.

Species affinis *Rh. recurvo* Balf. f. et Forrest a quo ramulis dense strigosis, foliorum indumento, calyce multo majore differt.

[Notes, R.B.G., Edin., No. LXXXIX, April 1934.]

Frutex parvus compactus 1-1.5 m. altus, perulis gemmarum sterilium diu persistentibus, ramulis petiolisque perulisque dense strigosis. Folia coriacea petiolo 0.5-1 cm. longo praedita; lamina lanceolata vel oblanceolata vel nunc ovalis, 3-7 cm. longa, 1-2 cm. lata, apice obtusa vel acuta, basi cuneata, margine recurvata, supra initio pilis albidis induta atque strigoso-glandulosa tandem fere glabra nitida, infra dense fulvo-tomentosa, venis 10-12-paribus supra impressis infra tomento occultis. Inflorescentia umbellata 4-7-flora, pedicellis circ. 1.5 cm. longis glanduloso-strigosis. Calyx 5-8 mm. longus, lobis 5 inaequalibus lanceolatis vel ovatis dorso margineque dense glanduloso-strigosis. Corolla infundibuli-campanulata, circ. 3 cm. longa, rosea, postice maculata lobis 5 ovatis 1.5 cm. longis, 1-1.5 cm. latis. Stamina 10, inaequalia, 1.5-2.5 cm. longa, filamentis fere ad medium villosis. Gynaeceum circ. 3.5 cm. longum, ovario circ. 6 mm. longo dense glanduloso-strigoso, stylo glabro, stigmatate lobulato.

UPPER BURMA.—Seinghku Wang in the valley of the Di Chu. Alt. 11,000 ft. A small compact bushy shrub, sometimes as much as 5 ft. high, but usually 2-3 ft. or less. Scattered about on the sunniest side of steep granite scree among boulders. 25th July 1926. F. K. Ward No. 7184.

Rh. recurvoides appeared as a name in the Year Book of the Rhododendron Association (1931), p. 245; a description in English was published in the Rhododendron Society Notes (1929-31), Vol. iii, No. 5 (1932), p. 284.

***Rhododendron venator* Tagg. Sp. nov.**

Species sectionis *Irrorati*; tomento stellato atque florum structura ad subseriem *Parishii* spectat; inter species illius subseriei foliis multo minoribus angustioribus facile recognoscitur.

Frutex gracilis 2-3 m. altus; ramuli sub inflorescentia circ. 5 mm. diam., juniores dense strigosi, setis longestipitatis glanduloso-capitatis atque pilis albo-floccosis intermixtis, seniores glabrescentes. Folia coriacea petiolo 1-1.5 cm. longo breviter stellato-piloso sparsim glanduloso-setoso munita; lamina oblongo-lanceolata vel oblongo-oblanceolata, 6-14 cm. longa, 2-4 cm. lata, apice obtusa vel acuta, basi obtusa vel semicordata, supra laete viridis, infra pallide glauco-virens, venis 12-18 paribus. Inflorescentia umbellata circ. 10-flora, rhachide 6-10 mm. longa dense fulvo- vel ferrugineo-tomentosa, pedicellis 1-1.5 cm. longis dense stellato-tomentosis. Calyx 1-2 mm. longus lobis 5 late rotundatis dense tomentosis margine glanduloso-ciliatis. Corolla 3-5 cm. longa tubuloso-campanulata carnosae atrokermesinae nectariis conspicuis nigridis. Stamina 10, 2.5-3.5 cm. longa glabra. Gynaeceum 3.5 cm. longum, ovario conoideo dense tomentoso, stylo basim versus stellato-tomentoso. Capsula circ. 1.5 cm. longa paulo curvata 5-locularis.

SOUTH-EASTERN TIBET.—Tsangpo Gorge, near Pemako-chung. Alt.

8,000 ft. Slim shrub with more or less ascending branches although reaching a height of 8-10 ft. Forms loose tangled thickets in rather swampy ground in dense mixed forest. 19th November 1924. F. K. Ward No. 6285.

The name *Rh. venator* Tagg MSS. appeared, with a short description in English, in the Supplement to the Rhododendron Association Year Book (1933), p. 102. The truss and flowers were described from plants raised under Ward's No. 6285 in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, at Tower Court, Ascot, at Exbury, at Muncaster Castle, and at Headfort Gardens.

A species akin to *Rh. irroratum* and in its stellate indumentum showing affinity with the *Parishii* subseries of the *Irroratum* Series. The relatively small and narrow leaves are not in close agreement with the other members of the subseries. Thus in foliage it is a somewhat aberrant member, but the character of the indumentum and of the flower is quite in accordance with that of the alliance suggested.

Shrub 8-10 ft. high, shoots below the inflorescence about 5 mm. in diameter. Young shoots clad with long-stalked, gland-tipped setae and with white floccose hairs. Perulae for a time persisting—the lowest ovate triangular, the upper linear lanceolate, acuminate; young branches eventually almost glabrous. Leaves leathery, 6-14 cm. long, 2.4 cm. broad, oblong-lanceolate to oblong-oblancoate, apex obtuse or acute, cuspidate with a very sharp recurved mucronate tip, base obtuse to semicordate, upper surface bright green, more or less rugulose, at maturity to the eye glabrous, but under magnification speckled with vestiges of white hairs, midrib deeply grooved; primary veins 12-18 on each side, deeply impressed; under surface pale glaucous green, to the eye almost glabrous, but under magnification sprinkled with small whitish much-branched stellate hairs chiefly on the midrib and veins, midrib prominent, primary veins distinctly raised; margin entire, somewhat undulate, cartilaginous. Petiole stout, 1-1.5 cm. long, rounded below, slightly grooved above, clad with a covering of short stellate hairs and a few long setulose glands. Inflorescence a congested umbel of about 10 flowers; rhachis 6-10 mm. long, densely clad with a fawn to rusty tomentum; bracteole filiform, densely clad with a silky pubescence. Pedicels stout, 1-1.5 cm. long, clad with a dense loose furfuraceous tomentum and a few setose glands. Calyx small, 1-2 mm. long; lobes 5, broadly rounded, densely tomentose and fringed with setose glands. Corolla 3.5 cm. long, fleshy, tubular campanulate, deep crimson with 5 black-crimson nectar pouches at the base. Stamens 10, 2.5-3.5 cm. long; filaments glabrous, white above, reddish towards the base; anthers purplish-black, about 3 mm. long. Pistil 3.5 cm. long; ovary conoid, densely tomentose with long fasciately-branched hairs with which are mixed a few setose glands; style at the base more or less stellately tomentose, capsule otherwise glabrous, about 1.5 cm. long, slightly curved, 5 valved.