

A Note on the Indian and Chinese Species of the Genus *Sibbaldia*, Linn.

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The genus *Sibbaldia* in Rosaceae was first named by Linnaeus (Sp. Plant. 284, 1753), and was placed near the genus *Potentilla*. In De Candolle's Prodrumus, the genus has been retained on the ground that the number of stamens and carpels in *Sibbaldia* are always few (4, 5, 8 or 10), in contrast with an indefinite number in *Potentilla*. Hooker, in the Flora of British India (ii, 345), has included *Sibbaldia* within *Potentilla*, but making it a distinct section. This arrangement was followed by other botanists for some time, but recently the tendency has been to revive the genus again. Handel-Mazzetti, in Symbolae Sinicae (vii, 519), described one new species of *Sibbaldia*, and in the recent Kew Hand-list of Rock Garden Plants (1934), the genus is treated as a distinct one. Wolf's monograph of *Potentilla* recognizes the genus *Sibbaldia* and does not treat of species which belong to this group.

While attempting to make a complete and correctly named list of the *Potentillas* and *Sibbaldias* of South-Eastern Asia, the writer found that there exists a certain amount of vagueness in the names; e.g. the name *Potentilla sikkimensis*, given by Prain in 1904, refers to a *Sibbaldia*, while the same name was again given to a *Potentilla* by Wolf in his monograph (1908), who seemed to have overlooked Prain's name. In view of this conflicting nomenclature, an endeavour has been made in the following list of Asiatic species to make the position clear:—

- (1) *Sibbaldia axilliflora* (Hook. f.) Chatterjee. Comb. nov.

Synonyms.—(i) *Sibbaldia* sp. Wolf in Biblioth. Bot. xvi (1908), 698.

(ii) *Potentilla axilliflora* Hook. f. Flora Brit. India, ii (1878), 346.

(iii) *Fragaria indica* Wall. Cat. 1236 pp.

Distribution.—Western Himalaya.

- (2) *Sibbaldia melinotricha* Hand.-Mazz. in Symbolae Sinicae vii (1933), 521.

Distribution.—N.W. Yunnan.

- (3) *Sibbaldia micropetala* (D. Don) Hand.-Mazz. in Karst. u. Schenck, Vegbild. 22R., H.viii (1932), 6; Symbolae Sinicae vii (1933), 520.

[Notes, R.B.G., Edin., XCV, July 1938.]

Synonyms.—(i) *Sibbaldia potentilloides* Cambess. in Jacquem. Voy. iv (1844 ?), 54 ; Wolf in Biblioth. Bot. xvi (1908), 696.

(ii) *Potentilla albifolia* Wall. in Hook. f. Flora Brit. India ii (1878), 347.

(iii) *Potentilla micropetala* D. Don, Prodr. Fl. Nepal (1825), 231.

Distribution.—Kashmir to Yunnan.

- (4) *Sibbaldia parviflora* Willd. in Ges. Naturf. Fr. Neue Schr. ii (1799), 125, t. 5, f. 2 ; Boiss. Fl. Orient ii (1872), 727 ; Symbolae Sinicae vii (1933), 519.

Synonyms.—(i) *Sibbaldia cuneata* Hornem. Ind. Sem. Hort. Hafn. (1842) ; Edgw. in Trans. Linn. Soc. xx (1846), 44 ; Kunze in Linnaea xx (1847), 59.

(ii) *Potentilla Sibbaldi* Franch. in Pl. Delav. 210, Hook. f. Flor. Brit. Ind. ii (1878), 345, non Hall. f.

Distribution.—N. Asia, W. Tibet, Alpine Himalayas, Yunnan (also in N. America).

Note.—This species has been much confused with *Sibbaldia procumbens* Linn. which is distributed in Russia, Switzerland, France, Scotland, Spain and the Alps. Hook. f. in Flora of British India has wrongly quoted *Sibbaldia procumbens* Linn. and *Potentilla Sibbaldia* Hall f. as synonymous with *Sibbaldia parviflora* Willd. Recent botanists, Gustav Hegi (in Illustrierte Flora von Mittel-Europa) and Handel-Mazzetti (in Symbolae Sinicae vii (1933)), have recognized these two distinct plants, and the real *Sibbaldia procumbens* Linn. does not occur in South-Eastern Asia.

- (5) *Sibbaldia pentaphylla* J. Krause, in Fedde Repert. Beih. xii (1922), 410.

Distribution.—Eastern Tibet, W. China.

Note.—This plant very closely resembles *Sibbaldia micropetala* (D. Don) Hand.-Mazz., and only differs in the colour of the flower.

- (6) *Sibbaldia perpusilla* (Hook. f.) Chatterjee. Comb. nov.

Synonyms.—(i) *Sibbaldia sp.* Wolf in Biblioth. Bot. xvi (1908), 708.

(ii) *Potentilla perpusilla* Hook. f. Flor. Brit. Ind. ii (1878), 346.

Distribution.—Kumaon, Sikkim.

- (7) *Sibbaldia perpusilloides* (W. W. Smith) Hand.-Mazz. in Symbolae Sinicae vii (1933), 520.

Synonyms.—(i) *Potentilla brachystemon* Hand.-Mazz. in Anz. Ak. W. W. lx (1923), 184.

(ii) *Potentilla perpusilloides* W. W. Smith in Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind. iv (1911), 188.

Distribution.—Sikkim, Yunnan.

- (8) *Sibbaldia purpurea* Royle, Illustr. Bot. Himal. (1835), 208; Hand.-Mazz. in Symbolae Sinicae vii (1933), 521.

Synonyms.—(i) *Sibbaldia* sp. Wolf. in Biblioth. Bot. xvi (1908), 709.

(ii) *Potentilla purpurea* Royle in Hook. f. Flor. Brit. India ii (1878), 347.

Distribution.—N.W. Himalaya.

- (9) *Sibbaldia sikkimensis* (Prain) Chatterjee. Comb. nov.

Synonym.—(i) *Potentilla sikkimensis* Prain in Jour. As. Soc. Beng. lxxiii (1904), 201; Rec. Bot. Surv. India iv (1913), 365.

Distribution.—Sikkim (Thungu, Lyang, Jougri, Chengu at 13,000 ft.).

- (10) *Sibbaldia tetrandra* Bunge in Enumer. Pl. Altaica (1835), 17.

Synonyms.—(i) *Sibbaldia procumbens* var. *tibetica* Hook. f. et Thom. Herb. Ind. Orient.

(ii) *Potentilla tetrandra* Bunge in Hook. f. Flor. Brit. India ii (1878), 346.

(iii) *Dryadanthe Bungeana* Ledeb. Flor. Ross. ii (1844), 33.

Distribution.—Altai Mt., W. Tibet, East Tibet (Sikkim frontier).

- (11) *Sibbaldia trullifolia* (Hook. f.) Chatterjee. Comb. nov.

Synonym.—*Potentilla trullifolia* Hook. f. Flor. Brit. India ii (1878), 345.

Distribution.—Sikkim and Tibet.