

New Rhododendrons from Nepal

BY

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Rhododendron Cowanianum Davidian, sp. nov.

Species ad nullam seriem pertinens; aspectu *R. Baileyi* Balf. f. sed foliis deciduis distinctissima; *R. tricoclado* Franch. ejusque sociis etiam similis sed squamis aliis, corolla rubro-purpurea, et situ nepalensi in seriem illam haud ponenda.

Frutex 1.5 m. altus; ramuli sparse setulosi vel glabri, lepidoti. Folia decidua; lamina obovata vel oblongo-obovata, apice rotundata et mucronata, basi obtusa vel cuneata, 2.3–5.2 cm. longa, 1.2–2.4 cm. lata, margine pilis longis modice munita, supra dense lepidota, sparse villosa vel glabra, costa pilosa, infra squamis luteo-viridibus inter se a 1–4 diametris distantibus oblecta; petiolus 3–4 mm. longus, lepidotus, setulosus. Inflorescentia terminalis, umbellata vel breviter racemosa, 2–4-flora, rhachi ad 4 mm. longa; pedicelli 1–1.6 cm. longi, lepidoti. Calyx 5–8 mm. longus, lobis rotundatis vel oblongo-ovatis, extra lepidotus, margine pilosa vel glabra. Corolla breviter campanulata, 5-loba, 1.5–1.8 cm. longa, rubro-purpurea, glabra vel extra sparsissime lepidota. Stamina 10, inaequalia, 1–1.4 cm. longa; filamenta basi vel ad tertiam partem villosa. Ovarium conoideum, 4 mm. longum, dense lepidotum; stylus brevis, basin versus curvatus. Capsula 6–8 mm. longa, 5 mm. lata, lepidota, calyce persistente.

CENTRAL NEPAL. Langtang lateral valley. Alt. 3,650 m. Height 5 ft.; deciduous; flowers reddish-purple; occasional. 7 June 1949. O. Polunin No. 175. Type in Herb. Brit. Mus.

CENTRAL NEPAL. Langtang valley, N. facing slopes. Alt. 3,650 m. Frequent in birch forest. Shoots from deciduous species. 23 June 1949. O. Polunin No. 551.

I have named this species in honour of Dr. J. M. Cowan of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, in recognition of his work on the genus *Rhododendron*.

Rhododendron Lowndesii Davidian, sp. nov.

Species eximia forsitan in serie *R. lepidoti* Wall. ponenda, sed foliis ut videtur decidua; aspectu *R. lepidoti* Wall. sed foliis pedicellis pilosis, foliis infra squamis inter se a 2–5 diametris distantibus praeditis differt.

Frutex parvus ad 10 cm. altus; ramuli tenues, pilosi, sparse vel moderate lepidoti. Folia claro-viridia, ut videtur decidua; lamina obovata vel oblanceolata, apice rotundata et mucronata, basi obtusa vel cuneata, 1.3–2 cm. longa, 0.4–1.1 cm. lata, supra puberula, lepidota vel elepidota, margine setulosa, infra sparse pilosa vel glabra, squamis luteo-viridibus inter se a 2–5 diametris distantibus praedita; petiolus 1–2 mm. longus, lepidotus. Inflorescentia terminalis, 1–2-flora; pedicelli tenues, 2.5–4.3 cm. longi, pilosi et lepidoti.

Calyx profunde 5-lobatus, atro-carmesinus, 2-5 mm. longus, lobis rotundatis, ovatis vel oblongo-ovatis, extra lepidotis, margine ciliatis. Corolla rotato-campanulata, 5-loba, 1.4-1.7 cm. longa, lutea postice rubro-maculata, extra lepidota. Stamina 10-11, inaequalia, 7-10 mm. longa, e tubo exserta; filamentis ad duam partem puberulis. Ovarium conoideum, 2-3 mm. longum, dense lepidotum; stylus brevis et basin versus valde curvatus.

NEPAL. Marsiandi Valley. Alt. 4,600 m. Rock crevices on cliff faces. Flowers pale dull yellow, spotted yellow ochre. Back of corolla and calyx marked with carmine. Flower stem carmine. Leaves bright green. 2 July 1950. D. G. Lowndes No. L.1174. Type in Herb. Brit. Mus.

This new species has been named in honour of the collector Col. D. G. Lowndes. It is tentatively placed in the *Lepidotum* Series, although the leaves, so far as can be judged from dried material, appear to be deciduous, whereas they are normally evergreen in this series. It can, however, fall into no other series yet described.