A NEW SPECIES OF LAMIUM FROM NEPAL

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Among the collections of Labiatae made in Nepal by the British Museum expeditions in the early 1950's were several gatherings of a high alpine scree plant. Dr. Mukerjee of Calcutta recognised it as distinct new species and I am grateful to him for comments on the novelty. To the Director of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), I am grateful for sending the material on loan.

Lamium tuberosum Hedge **sp. nov.** (Pl. 2)

Perennis radice longissima; in parte subterranea squamis ovato-lanceolatis acutis glabris provisus; radix tuberum cylindricum terminans. *Caules* prostrati, repentes, c. 7–15 cm. longi, ± simplices, acute quadrangulares, a basi ad regionem floriferam pilis eglandulosis brevibus dense tecti. *Folia* petiolata ovato-triangularia, margine regulariter crenata, apice obtusa, basin versus truncata vel leviter cuneata, nervatura subtus et supra prominente, utrinque pilis eglandulosis paucicellularibus simplicibus et glandulis lucidis sessilibus provisa; lamina c. 10–20 cm. × 6–12 cm. *Petiolus* foliorum inferiorum c. 10 cm., superne decrescentia, pilis eglandulosis dense provisus. *Flores* plerumque in axillis foliorum superiorum solitarii, sessiles. *Bracteae* subulatae calyce breviores, c. 4 mm. longae in mucrones attenuatae. *Calyx* campanulatus 6–7 mm. longus c. 5 mm. latus, vix bilabiatus, 5-dentibus, 5-nervosis, extra pilis eglandulosis paucicellularibus et glandulis lucidis sessilibus praeditus, intus dentibus exceptis glaber, dentibus c. 2 mm. longis triangularibus in mucrones c. 1 mm. longos attenuatis; post anthesin paulo auctus. *Corolla* c. 24 mm. longa, rosea, extra pilis albis eglandulosis dense provisa, molliter pubescens; tubus c. 13 mm. longus, exannulatus, rectus vel leviter curvatus fauce paulo ampliatus; galea apice integra non emarginata c. 9 × 8 mm.; labium inferius galea paulo longius, lobo mediano emarginata c. 5 × 5 mm. lateralibus majore emarginatis paulo. *Antherae* glabrae, sub galeam inclusae. *Stylus* 19 mm. longus distinte bifidus. Nuculae laeves, trigonae, truncatae. *Floret* Junio.

NEPAL: Dojam Khola nr. Suli Gad, among cliffs growing out of rock faces, flowers rose inside corolla deep rose, stamen filaments whitish, anthers brownish, 3960 m. 19 June 1952, *O. Polunin, Sykes & Williams* 2264 (holo–BM, iso–CAL); Barbung Khola between Daragaon and Chharkabhotgaon, growing in rather dry vertical cliffs in ledges; flowers magenta, throat of lip spotted with dark magenta, 4260 m., 13 June 1952, *O. Polunin, Sykes & Williams* 1124; Thorungse pass, Muktinath, open grass slopes, calyx green, corolla mauvish pink, 4420 m., 28 June 1954, *Stainton, Sykes & Williams* 1474; Sangdah, north of Tukucha, open grass hillside, corolla, filaments and anthers pink, 4110 m., 31 July 1954, *Stainton, Sykes & Williams* 7318; Damodar Kund, north of Muktinath, among stones on scree slopes, corolla and filaments mauve, anthers brown, 4720 m., 31 July 1954, *Stainton, Sykes & Williams* 2215.

The specimens cited above are fairly uniform in facies and dimensions. The corolla lengths range from 22 mm. to 28 mm. and the calyces from 6 mm. to 10 mm.; in the type gathering, but not in the others, small intermediary teeth are sometimes developed between the main calyx teeth; although the thecae are normally glabrous, in some specimens there are sparse long white hairs present.

There are several anomalous features about *L. tuberosum* which have made the assessment of its affinities difficult. It does not fit into any of the existing sections of the genus, as they are at present defined, and there is no single species to which it is clearly related. *L. tuberosum* does, however, have certain features in common with two other high alpine species of *Lamium*:—*L. rhomboideum* Benth. and *L. anomalum* Juz.* They share the characters of a scree habit, few flowers in the axils of the upper leaves and the large lateral lobes of the corolla lip. They differ at a glance by the fact that the indumentum in the new species is not conspicuous whereas in *L. rhomboideum* and *L. anomalum* it is thick, densely woolly and white. They also differ in leaf shape—rhomboid in *L. rhomboideum*, ovate-triangular in *L. tuberosum*; calyx size 1·5–2 cm. as opposed to 6–7 mm. in *L. tuberosum*; corolla size—3–4 cm. against c. 2·5 cm. in the new species.

The distribution of the three species mentioned cannot be considered as well known, due undoubtedly to lack of collecting, but, at present, *L. rhomboideum* is known from the western end of the Himalaya, Chitral and eastern Afghanistan (where it was erroneously described as *Eriophyton afghanicum* Rech. fil.); *L. anomalum* from the Tian Shan and Alai regions and *L. tuberosum* from Nepal.

* These two species were treated by Juzepczuk in the separate genus *Erianthera* Benth. (Hook. Bot. Misc. **3**, 380: 1833). As Dr. Wendelbo has pointed out to me, there is, however, an earlier *Erianthera*, that of Nees in Wallich's Plant. As. Rar. **3**, 77 (1832). The name of the acanthaceous plant is mis-spelt in the Index Kewensis as *Eriathera*. *Erianthera* Benth. was created on the basis of the broad lateral lobes of the corolla lip. Bentham himself later reduced it within section *Lamiopsis* of *Lamium*. In a recent revision (Not. Syst. Leningrad, **15**, 267–272: 1953) Juzepczuk resuscitated *Erianthera* Benth. and added another species—*E. anomalum* which differed from *E. rhomboideum* in the less obvious leaf serrations and the glabrous anthers. The slender arguments for recognising *Erianthera* Benth. as a separate genus are weakened by the characters of *L. tuberosum* which, presumably on the basis of the broad lateral corolla lobes, would have been treated by Juzepczuk as an *Erianthera* yet in other characters *L. tuberosum* is as far removed from *L. rhomboideum* as the latter is from other species of *Lamium*.

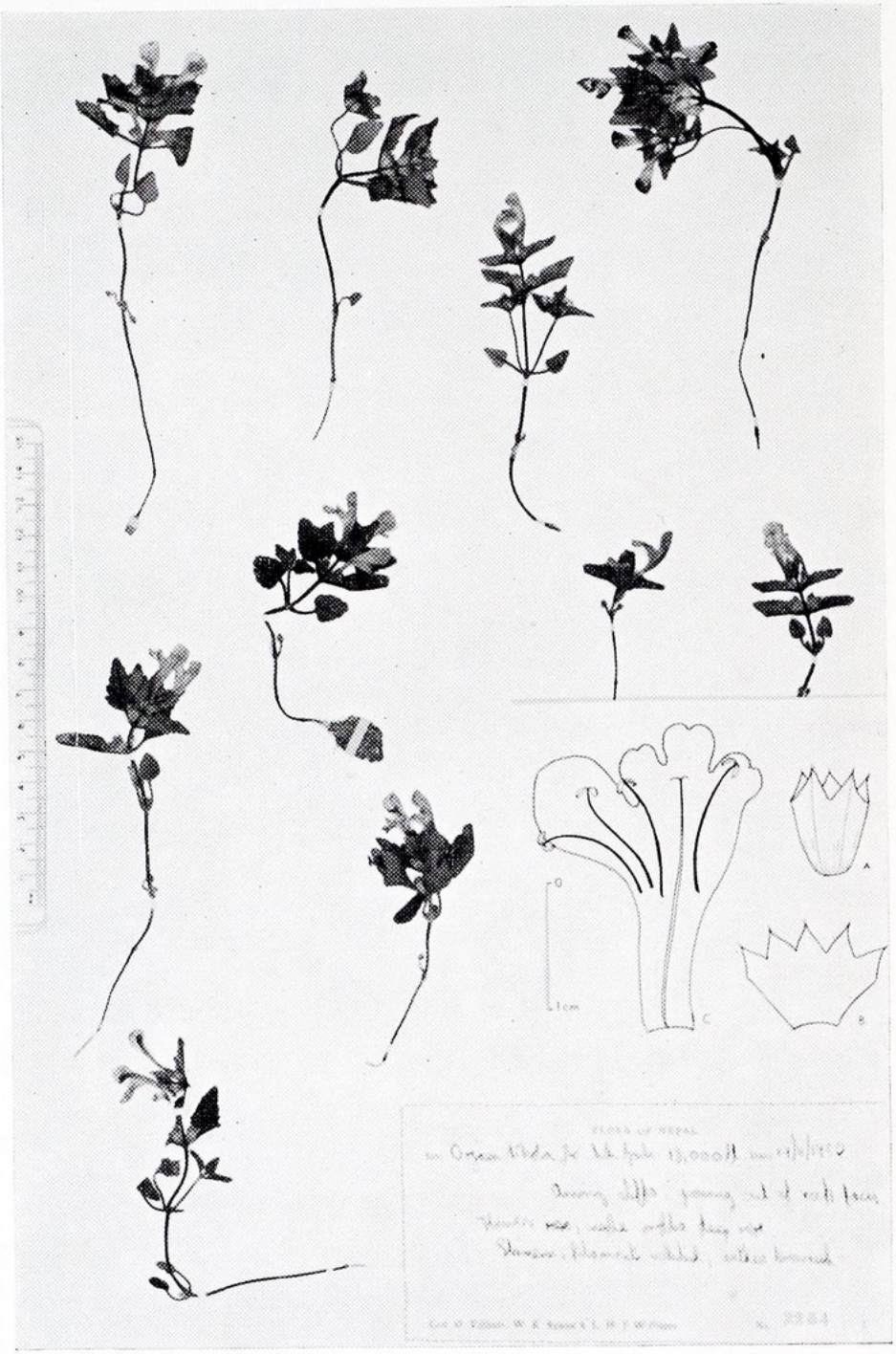

PLATE 2. Type specimen of *Lamium tuberosum* Hedge. Inset: drawing of floral dissection.