

NOTES ON BUDDLEIA III:
A *Buddleia* of Herbaceous Habit

J. KEENAN

Buddleia subherbacea Keenan, sp. nov. Figs. 1 and 2.

Ex affinitate *B. forrestii* Diels et *B. limitaneae* W. W. Sm., ab ambabu habitu sub-herbaceo, antheris apiculatus, stylis 6–8 mm nec 4–5 mm, seminibus globosis, testis brunneis fragilibus in alam expansis distincta.

Planta 1 m alta; caules subherbacei, arcuati, 1.5 m longi, tetragoni, leviter alati, parce stellato-pilosi pilis albis simplicibus intermixtis. *Folia* breviter petiolata, papyracea, serrata, parce pilosa, supra fusco-viridia, infra pallide viridia; laminae ellipticae, acuminatae, plerumque 7.5 × 3.5 cm. *Inflorescentiae* axillares in triente superiore ramorum; cymae 3–5-florae. *Corolla* roseo-purpurea, odorata, 10 × 4.5 mm. *Antherae* apiculatae, in medio tubo insertae; grana pollinis 4-colporata. *Ovarium* glabrum; stylus 6–8 mm. *Capsula* brunnea, haud reflexa; semina rotundata ala late elliptica praedita. Floret in cultu Julio et Augusto.

Type. Cult. in R.B.G. Edinburgh from seed of K.W. 8559, flowers salmon-purple, C11 (holo. E, iso. K, BM).

ASSAM. Delei valley (28° 15' N; 96° 35' E); flower cream, the centre orange, fragrant; a large but weak stemmed shrub growing in shady gullies facing north the long stems leaning over the steep slopes; might be grown as a large herb in the herbaceous border, 3048–3352 m, 23 viii 1928, *Kingdon Ward* 8559 (BM).

This interesting plant, which is of a habit previously unknown in the genus, was introduced to cultivation in 1929 by Kingdon Ward through seed from his gathering KW 8559 collected in August 1928 from the Delei valley, north-east Assam. Ward's field note illustrated its individuality:—"might be grown as a large herb in the herbaceous border".

It is closely allied to *B. forrestii* Diels, *B. limitanea* W. W. Sm. and to *B. cooperi* W. W. Sm., plants of the former two species being in cultivation. From the last it is easily separated through the median, not basal, insertion of its anthers and in its style being 6–8 mm in length, that of *B. cooperi* being scarcely 0.5 mm. From both *B. forrestii* and *B. limitanea* it is separated in that, unlike these two species, its capsules never reflex after flowering, its seeds are rounded and winged, not elongated and tailed, its anther filaments terminate beyond the thecae, not within them, its styles are 6–8 mm, not 4–5 mm long, and in dissection its opened-out corollas are longer than broad, not as broad as long.

B. subherbacea shares an interesting feature with these last two species in that the peduncle is often coherent to the main axis of the flowering branch, becoming emergent only around the mid-node. Like them it is a hexaploid (2n = 114) and self-fertile (although only 7–8 viable seeds were produced in the capsules of cultivated plants whereas those of the wild gathering contained upwards of 70).

R.M.S.



FIG. 1. Stages of growth of *Buddleia subherbacea* Keenan. A, March, B, May, C, July, D, October.

It is perfectly hardy in Edinburgh and was the first of the summer-flowerers to ripen its seeds, which it did in October. The long wand-like branches (Fig. 1, C & D) were by then dying back and not until March were the plump basal buds, so reminiscent of those of the resting stage of *Primula sonchifolia*, produced. The plant has been lost to cultivation in Edinburgh but may still be grown elsewhere.

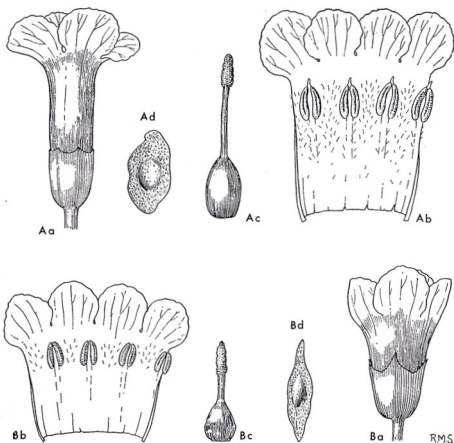


FIG. 2. A. *Buddleia subherbacea* Keenan (Kingdon Ward 8559) B. *B. limitanea* W. W. Sm. (Kingdon Ward 00249). a, flower $\times 4$; b, corolla, dissected $\times 4$; c, gynoecium $\times 4$; d, seed $\times 8$.

Curiously, from the same area in 1965 Cox & Hutchison (s.n.) collected *B. limitanea*, and plants raised from seed are now in cultivation at Glendoick and Edinburgh. This plant appears to have a partially herbaceous habit although not to the same extent as *B. subherbacea*; in all other respects it closely matches the 3 m shrub raised from seed of Kingdon Ward 00249 collected from north-east Upper Burma, which has since 1939 represented *B. limitanea* in cultivation. It may well be that *B. subherbacea* will yet be found to exist also with a shrub-habit.

B. subherbacea masqueraded in cultivation under the misnomer *B.*

limitanea, whilst in the herbarium of the British Museum it was filed under *B. forrestii*, another indication of its close relationship with these two species. Thus, the comments of Sir William Wright Smith and Dr. H. R. Fletcher on the separateness of *B. forrestii* and *B. limitanea* quoted by Sealy (Bot. Mag. N.S. tab. 93:1950) are rendered invalid, since they were based on comparison with *B. subherbacea* not *B. limitanea*.