

A NEW HIMALAYAN SPECIES OF ANEMONE

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Anemone*, *A. smithiana*, is described from Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan.

When working in the Edinburgh herbarium several years ago, Dr P. K. Chowdhuri set aside some Himalayan specimens of *Anemone* which he considered a new species but never described. In describing it now we retain the manuscript epithet intended by Chowdhuri in honour of the late Sir William Wright Smith.

Anemone smithiana Lauener & Panigrahi, sp. nov. (Sect. *Omalocarpus* DC).

A. demissae proxima, a quo petiolis vetustis longioribus densioribusque, floribus foliis involucrisque maioribus differt.

Caudex perennis crassus ligneus, radicibus tuberosis praeditus. *Folia* omnia radicalia, vestigiis petiolorum veterum nigro-cinereis fibrosis basi tecta; lamina ambitu suborbicularis, cordata, ad 10 cm lata, fere ad basin 3-5-lobata, lobis pinnatifidis vel fere pinnatisectis, lobulis ad apicem acutis breviter mucronatis, utrinque pilis albis patentibus, subtus praesertim ad venas instructa; petiolus ad 30 cm longus primum dense hirsutus. *Scapus* 1-3, 10-45 cm longus; umbella simplex floribus 3-10; involucrem pilosum foliis simile, pinnatisectum, lobis 8-10 pinnatifidis apicibus acutis. *Pedicelli* ad 3 cm longi, interdum involucre tectis, sub fructu ad 13 cm longi. *Flores* rosei, purpurei, malvini, forsitan tandem albescentes, tepalis 5, ad 25 mm longis, 10 mm latis, interdum dentatis, extra pilosis intus glabris, manifeste venosis, venis 10-13. *Stamina* numerosa, filamentis roseis ad 4 mm longis alatis, antheris nigris. *Achaenia* compressa 10-15, aggregata, griseo-brunnea, glabra, 8 mm longa 5 mm lata, suborbicularia, in rostrum breve curvatum contracta.

C NEPAL: *Stainton*, *Sykes & Williams* 1021, 1022, 2981, 2982, 6056, 6100, 6101, 6221, 7947, 7961 (BM). E NEPAL: *Telley*, 4270-4570 m, 1930, *Lall Dhwoj* 460 (holo. E), *Dhwoj* 461, 462 (E); 1929, *Dhwoj* 214 (E); Arun Tamur Watershed, S of Topke Gola, 4185 m, on open slopes, petals and filaments pink, anthers black, 9 vii 1956, *Stainton* 895 (BM, E).

SIKKIM: *Megu*, 4270 m, fl. purple, 21 vii 1913, *Rohmoo Lepcha* 822 (E); fl. white, *Rohmoo Lepcha* 824 (E); *Megu*, 4270 m, fl. light purple, 1 vii 1922, *Cave* s.n. (E), fl. red, 1 vii 1922, *Cave* s.n. (E); *Bokta*, 3960 m, 1913, *Ribu & Rhomoo* 6503 (E); *Changu*, 3960 m, very variable, red pink purple, 6'', on top of ridge peat turfs, 28 vi 1913, *R. E. Cooper* 43 (E), 3660 m, 4-18'', very variable, purple to white in rock on screes etc., 21 viii 1913, *R. E. Cooper* 564 (E).

BHUTAN: *Phajudin Timpu*, 3960 m, 5 viii 1914, *R. E. Cooper* 3223 (E), 3960 m, 4 xi 1914, *R. E. Cooper* 3529 (E).

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The following specimens probably also belong to *A. smithiana* but are too incomplete for definite identification: NEPAL: *Dhwoj* 15, 17 p.p., 141; *Wigram* 11, 12; *Sharma* 360. BHUTAN: *Ludlow & Sherriff* 102, 103, 618; *B. J. Gould* 117.

Anemone smithiana belongs to the simple-umbelled group of Sect. *Omalocarpus* along with *A. demissa* Hook. f. & Thoms., *A. narcissiflora* L. and *A. polyanthes* D. Don. It is most easily distinguished from these congeners by the thick base of old persistent leaf stalks which shred into long blackish-grey fibrous strands, and also to some extent by flower colour.

Although *A. demissa* also possesses persistent leaf bases, those of *A. smithiana* are longer and much denser, and the latter species is further distinguished by being taller and having larger leaves, involucre and flowers. The flowers of *A. demissa* are usually blue or white and about 2.5 cm in diameter whilst those of *A. smithiana* are rosy pink, purple or mauve and up to 5 cm in diameter. *A. demissa* var. *villosissima* Brühl is distinguished by the copious hairiness of the leaves.

A. smithiana is also similar to *A. polyanthes* which, however, has a stouter prominently tubercled rootstock and is not, or rarely, covered with the persistent short remains of old leaf petioles. The leaf segments of *A. polyanthes* are usually broader, less divided and overlapping and, according to Hooker (Fl. Brit. Ind. 1, 10:1872), the flowers are white and 2.5 cm in diameter.

A. narcissiflora from Europe, SW & N Asia and Japan has very much more dissected leaves than those of *A. smithiana*.