



Pak. J. Bot., 14(2): 113-116, 1982.

TWO NEW *SILENE* L. SPECIES FROM THE N.W. HIMALAYAS

SHAHINA A. GHAZANFAR

National Herbarium, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad

Abstract

Two new *Silene* species *S. staintonii* and *S. stewartii* are described from the N.W. Himalayas (Drosh, Chitral and Pir Panjal range, Kashmir) belonging to Sections *Lastostemones* and *Physolychnis* respectively. *S. staintonii* is a distinct species without any close relatives, while *S. stewartii* comes closest to *S. wahlbergella*.

Silene staintonii S.A. Ghazanfar sp. nov. Fig. 1, A — D.

Holotypus: Pakistan (NW), Chitral, Drosh, 4500 ft., fls. white, 3.5 1958, J.D.A. Stainton 2362 (RAW; iso. : BM).

S. longisepalae E. Nasir, proxima, sed calyce glabro ungue petalino ciliato, filamentis pilosis distinguenda. *S. solenanthae* Trantv. etiam similis (Transcaucasiae orientalis endemicae, e sect. *Sclerocalycinarum*) sed carpophoro toto pubescente, filamentis pilosis et foliis basalibus diversis, praeterea distributione geographica distincta.

A ceteris specibus Pakistaniae distincta, ab omnibus speciebus Sectionis *Lastostemonum* dissimilis.

Plant perennis, caudice ligno ramoso. Caules 23-27 cm, erecti, simplices inferne albis pilosi, superne minus dense pilosi, supra glabri. Folia basalia 30- 50 x 3 - 4 mm, glabra, nisi margine ± pilosa, spathulata usque lineari-lanceolata, apice acuta, basi attenuata, sessilia. Folia caulina 20 - 35 x 1 mm, linearia, pubescentia, sursum minora, apice acuta, basi sessilia. Bracteae 6 - 7 x 0.5 mm, lineares, albo-pubescentes. Inflorescentia laxa paniculata. Flores hermaphroditi, terminales, solitarii. Pedicellus 22 - 35 mm, glaber. Calyx 28 - 29 mm longus, cylindricus, in fundum sensim decrescens, glaber; dentes c. 2 mm longi, ovati, apice obtusi, margine hyalino dense ciliolati, venae obscurae. Petala alba; limbus 10 - 11 mm longus, in lobos oblongos divisus; ungues auriculatae, basi ciliatae. Squamae coronariae oblongae. Carpophorum 11 - 12 mm longum, pubescens. Filamenta pubescentia. Capsula et semina ignota.

Known only from the type gathering.



Fig. 1. *Silene staintonii* : A,B, habit x 1; C, dissected calyx showing carpophore x 1; D, petal x 1.

The new species is placed in Section *Lastostemones* (Boiss.) Schischkin on the basis of its paniculate inflorescence, large glabrous calyx, hairy filaments and a ciliate petal-claw.

Silene stewartii S. A. Ghazanfar sp. nov. Fig. 2, A – D.

Holotypus: Kashmir, Pir Panjal range, Frasnag, ± 9000, 4.8 1947, R.R. & I.D. Stewart 23244 (RAW; iso. : NY?).

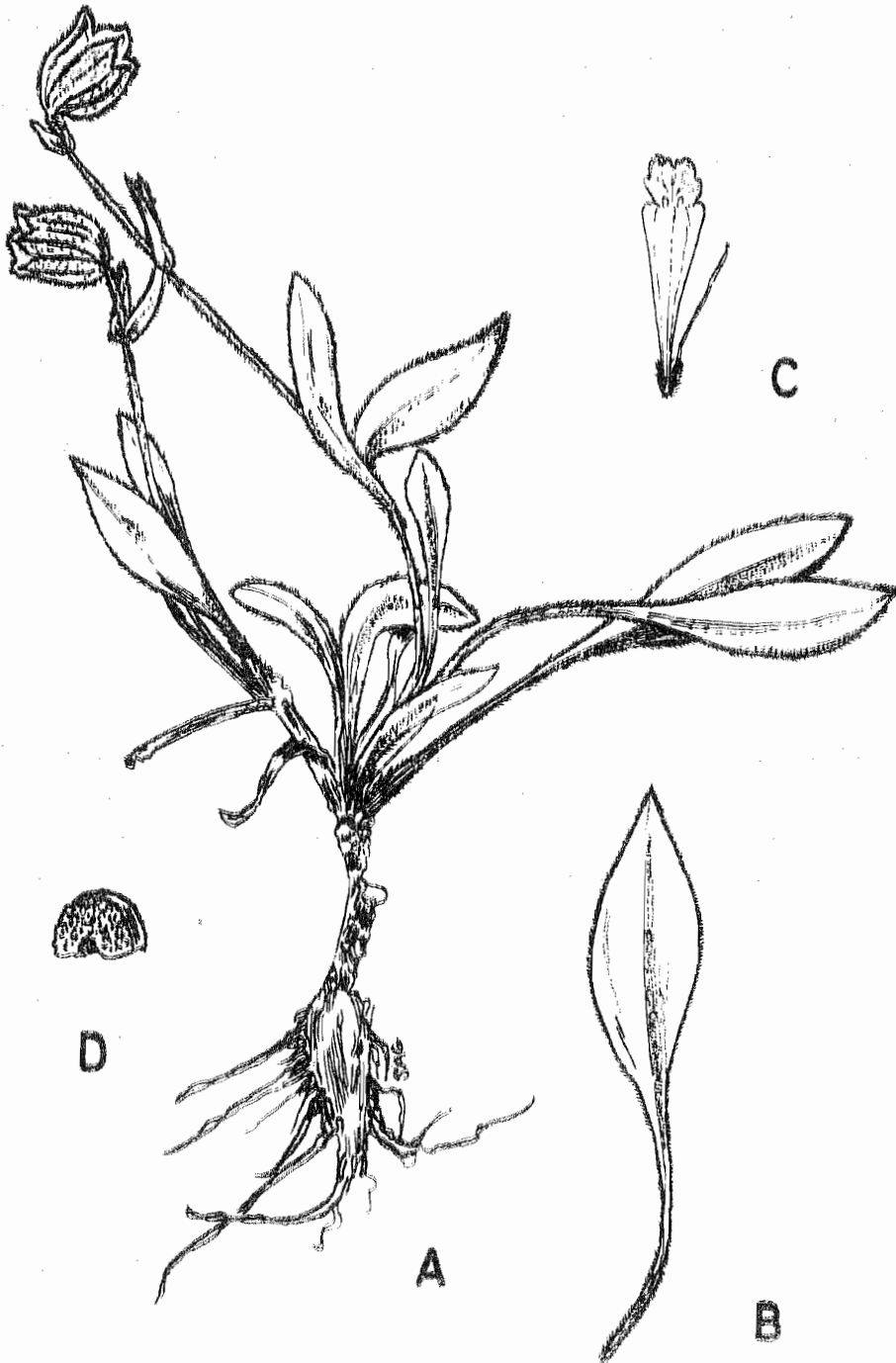


Fig. 2. *Silene stewartii* : A, habit x 1; B, basal leaf x 1; C, petal x 3; D, seed x 10.

Herba perennis, pumila, 7 - 15 cm alta. Caudex ligneus, brevis; radix tuberosa. Caules floriferi 1 - 2, tenues, simplices, erecti vel ascendenti - erecti, albo-pubescentes. Folia caudicalia conferta, 25 - 35 x 7 - 10 mm, spatulata vel oblongo-lanceolata, glabra, margine ciliata, apice acuta, in longum petiohum attenuata; folia caulina plus minus remota, lineari-lanceolata, 18 - 25 x 5 - 6 mm, apice acuta. Flores hermaphrodita, solitarii, nutantes. Bracteae 8 - 12 x 2 - 3 mm lineari-lanceolatae, foliis caulinis similes. Pedicelli dense albo-pubescenti. Calyx 10 - 11 mm, campanulatus, inflatus, albo-pubescentis, pilis eglandulosis; dentes late triangulares, obtusi, ciliati, nervis viridibus non-anastomosantibus praediti. Petala c. 8 mm longa (color ignota) in calyce inclusa; unguis auriculatus, basi ciliatus; lamina c. 1 mm, obtuse bilobata; ligulae binae, parvae. Carpophorus brevissimus vel nullus. Filamenta 10, basi ciliati. Styli 5. Capsula 10 - 12 mm ovoidea, dentibus bifidis 5 maturitate. Semina c. 1 mm, subreniformia, dorso leviter canaliculata, faciebus tuberculata.

Known from the type collection.

The new species comes closest to *S. wahlbergella* Chowdh., but can be distinguished by its glabrous ciliate-margined leaves, eglandular pubescence, smaller calyx and canaliculate tuberculate seeds. From *S. madens* Majumdar it is differentiated by its smaller calyx, included petals, and the petal-limb shallowly bilobed.

S. stewartii is included in Section *Physolychnis* (Benth.) Bocq. on the basis of its 5 styles, small included petals, small carpophore, and the capsule dehiscing by 5 bifid teeth.

Acknowledgements: I am grateful to Mr. I.C. Hedge, Herbarium Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, for going through the manuscript and for providing latin translations of part of the manuscript and to Mr. Airy Shaw, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, for the latin translation of *S. staintonii*. I am also thankful to Mr. S. Hamid, National Herbarium, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council for the illustration of *S. staintonii*.