

found in the materials assigned to ssp. *cordata* (Fig. 5) e.g.

- i. Petals of different shape, size and lobes.
- ii. One lobe of petal staminal in nature, with tip of the other one staminodal. One lobe of petal staminodal while other one normal. One petal with 3 lobes.
- iii. Auriculate petals are examples of most striking variation. Poorly developed to well-developed bifurcated auricle on one side or less frequently on both sides have been observed along with exauriculate petals in the same flower.
- iv. One stamen with abortive anther along with other normal anther lobe.

This study goes to show the correctness of the treatment done by Edgeworth & Hooker f. regarding the identity of the Indian *Drymaria* one hundred years ago.

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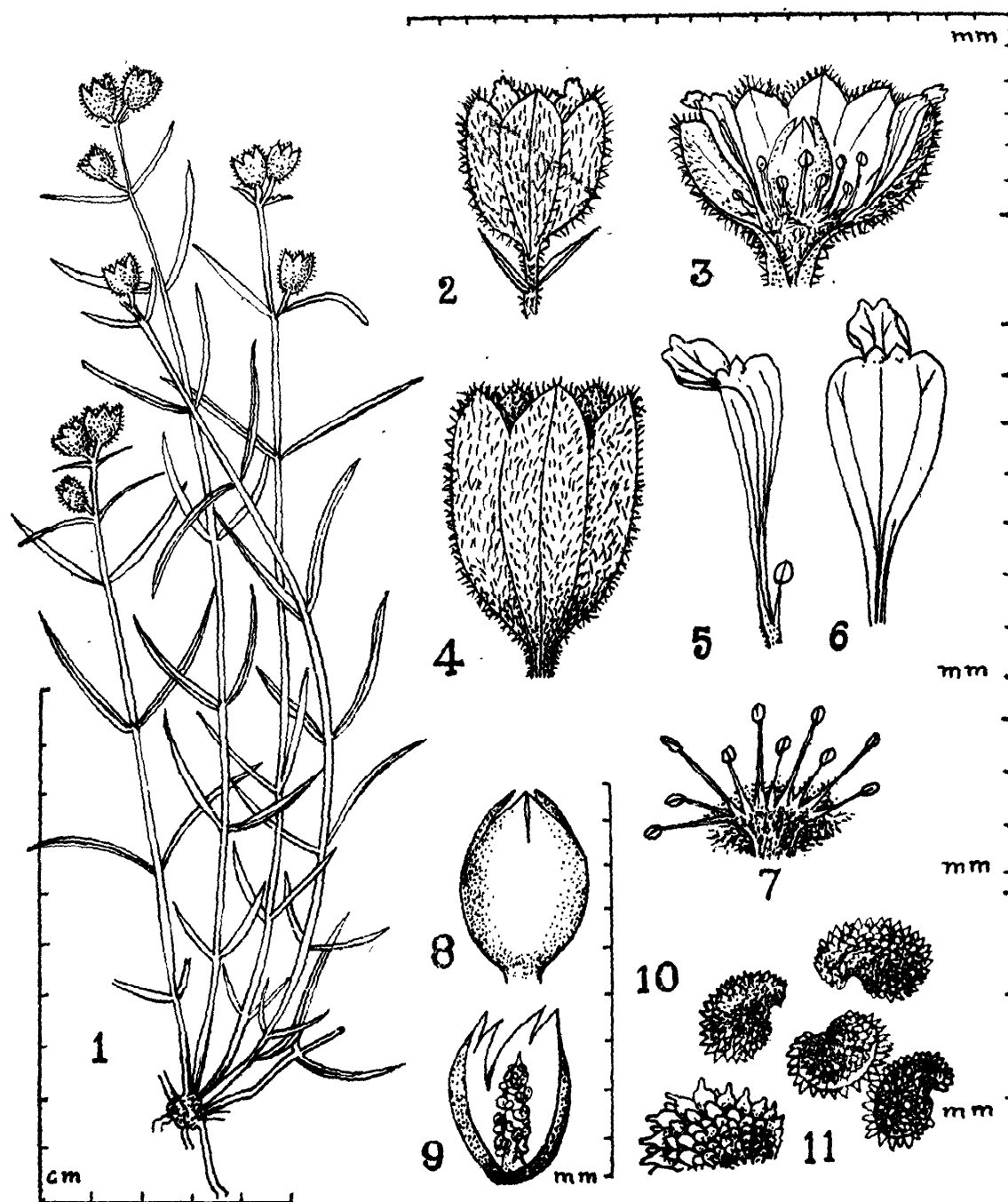
LYCHNIS STEWARTII EDGEW.—ITS IDENTITY, DESCRIPTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Lychnis stewartii Edgew. (1874) was described on the basis of a collection of Stewart. Bamber (1916) and Blatter (1927) have repeated this description including the "10-cleft capsule".

Lychnis and *Silene* were distinguished by Linnaeus on the basis of style number, but subsequently it has been found that the two have overlapping characters. Further, *Melandrium*, a section of *Lychnis* L. was elevated to a genus. Chowdhuri (1957) has shown that *Lychnis* and *Silene* can be distinguished by capsule characters, and he has merged the genus *Melandrium* Roehl. under *Silene* L. He has further divided the genus *Silene* into 44 sections, and a few subsections. On the basis of characters specified by Chowdhuri (l.c.), *Lychnis stewartii* Edgew. should be treated as belonging to the genus *Silene* L. Accordingly a transfer has been done (Majumdar, 1963), but it turns out

that the new name given, *Silene chambensis* is a superfluous name. Although the specific epithet *stewartii* (genitive form) under *Silene* is close to the adjectival form *stewartiana* used by Diels (1912), the two are based on different 'types' and from different localities, the latter being from Yunnan. Transfers and new combinations are governed by article 55 of the ICBN (1972), whereas Article 23A of ICBN (1972) is a recommendation in forming specific epithets, and not transfers. Hence, the proper combination on transfer of the species to *Silene* is now made here.

Chowdhuri (1957) in his key to the 44 Sections of *Silene* L., distinguishes his Section *Suffruticosae* thus: Cymules lax; flowers hermaphrodite; calyx cylindrical-clavate, with more or less prominent nerves; claw smooth and often auriculate. Further, in the enumeration and appropriately validat-



Silene stewartii (Edgew.) Majumdar

Figs. 1-11 : 1. Habit. 2. Flower. 3. Flower split open, the fruit is already formed. 4. Calyx. 5 & 6. Petal side and front views, the shorter stamen is adherent to the petal at base inside view. 7. Gynanthophore, split open, and the ovary removed. 8. Capsule. 9. Capsule split open, with one valve removed. 10. Seeds. 11. Part of seed highly enlarged. (U. C. Bhattacharyya 40728, BSD)

ing his sectional name, Chowdhuri has provided a diagnosis for two subsections—*Supinae* and *Aucherianae*. The latter is described to have lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate leaves, 1 or 3-5 nerved, flowers erect; calyx tubular-clavate or clavate and in fruit clavate, more or less inflated, with prominent nerves; petal claws auriculate. *Silene stewartii* with its narrow, 1-nerved, linear to lanceolate leaves, lax cymules, clavate prominently nerved inflated calyx, and auriculate petal claws shares most of the characters of the Section *Suffruticosae* and Subsection *Aucherianae*. However, the posture of the flower, described as erect in the Section, does not quite well fit in, since in our plants the flowers are erect as well as nodding. But considering the totality of the sectional and subsectional characters, it is evident that *Silene stewartii* is to be included in the Subsection *Aucherianae* Chowdhuri.

Silene stewartii (Edgew.) Majumdar comb. nov. *Lychnis stewartii* Edgew. in Edgew. & Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 1: 224. 1874; Blatter, Beaut. Fl. Kashmir 59. 1927; Bamber, Pl. Punjab, 146. 1916. *Silene chambensis* Majumdar in J. Ind. Bot. Soc. 42: 649. 1963.

Grass-like herb. *Stem* 15-25 cm tall, slender, hoary below, viscid-tomentose above. *Leaves* narrow, linear to lanceolate, spreading, 25-55 mm long, 1.5-2 mm broad, with one stout midrib. *Flowers* few, in lax cymules, sometimes solitary in the upper leaf axils, erect or nodding, pedice's pubescent, with two linear bracteoles in the upper part. *Calyx* oblong-clavate, 8-10 mm long, membranous, pubescent; nerves 10, green, faint, free or united; teeth rounded obtuse, scarious, edges with curved cilia. *Petals* obcordate, 3-nerved, with a very short, recurved

2-partite white limb, and a very broad auricled claw. *Stamens* 10, of which 5 taller, ca 8 mm long, and 5 shorter, ca 4 mm long, the shorter ones adherent to petals at base. *Gynanthophore* densely woolly; *pistil* 6 × 2.5 mm, styles 3, very short. *Capsule* subequal to the calyx, dehiscing by 6 valves. *Seeds* numerous, ca 1.3 × 1 mm, brownish, subreniform, finely sculptured, papillate, the papillae in concentric lines and in graded size, the largest forming a crest on the dorsal line.

The species is allied to *S. persica* Boiss. ssp. *moorcroftiana* (Rohrb.) Chowdhuri, in having pedicels with 2 bracteoles. It differs from the same in having much shorter calyx, 8-10 mm long, and auricle of petal not tooth-like.

Distribution: So far known only from a limited area of Western Himalaya, and appears to be endemic.

Specimens examined: W. HIMALAYA: Lahul, Jaeschke 167; Brandis 3785 (CAL); Lahul, Kyelang-kardang, 3200 m, Bhattacharyya 40728 (CAL & BSD); Chamba, Pangi, Sanch valley, 2700-3300 m, Harsukh s. n. (CAL); Lahul, Kyelang, N. L. Bor 14708, 14869 (DD).

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