

A NEW SPECIES OF *ANDROSACE* L. (PRIMULACEAE) FROM HEMKUND IN GARHWAL HIMALAYA.

During scrutiny and critical identification of herbarium specimens in BSD the authors came across an interesting species of *Androsace* L. which could not be matched with any known species of the genus. Further study of the specimens in BSD, DD and CAL herbaria revealed that this is an undescribed species closely allied to *Androsace selagini* (*A. selago* Hook. f. & Th.) in having solitary and bracteate scapes, but differs in having longer scapes, bracts smaller than the flowers, leaves oblong-lanceolate or lanceolate.

- 1a. Scapes less than 5 mm long; bracts equalling the flowers, silky, leaves linear or cuneate-obovate, incurved .. *A. selagini*
 1b. Scapes 1 cm long; bracts shorter than the flowers, not silky, leaves oblong-lanceolate or lanceolate, not incurved .. *A. sp. nov.*

The species is described here with illustrations.

Androsace garhwalicum Balodi & Singh *sp. nov.*

A. selagini (*A. selago* Hook. f. & Th.) proxime affine scapis solitariis bracteatis, sed differt scapis, perlongioribus floribus bractates longioribus, non sericeis, foliis oblongo-lanceolatis vel lanceolatis, non incurvis.

Androsace garhwalicum Balodi & Singh *sp. nov.*

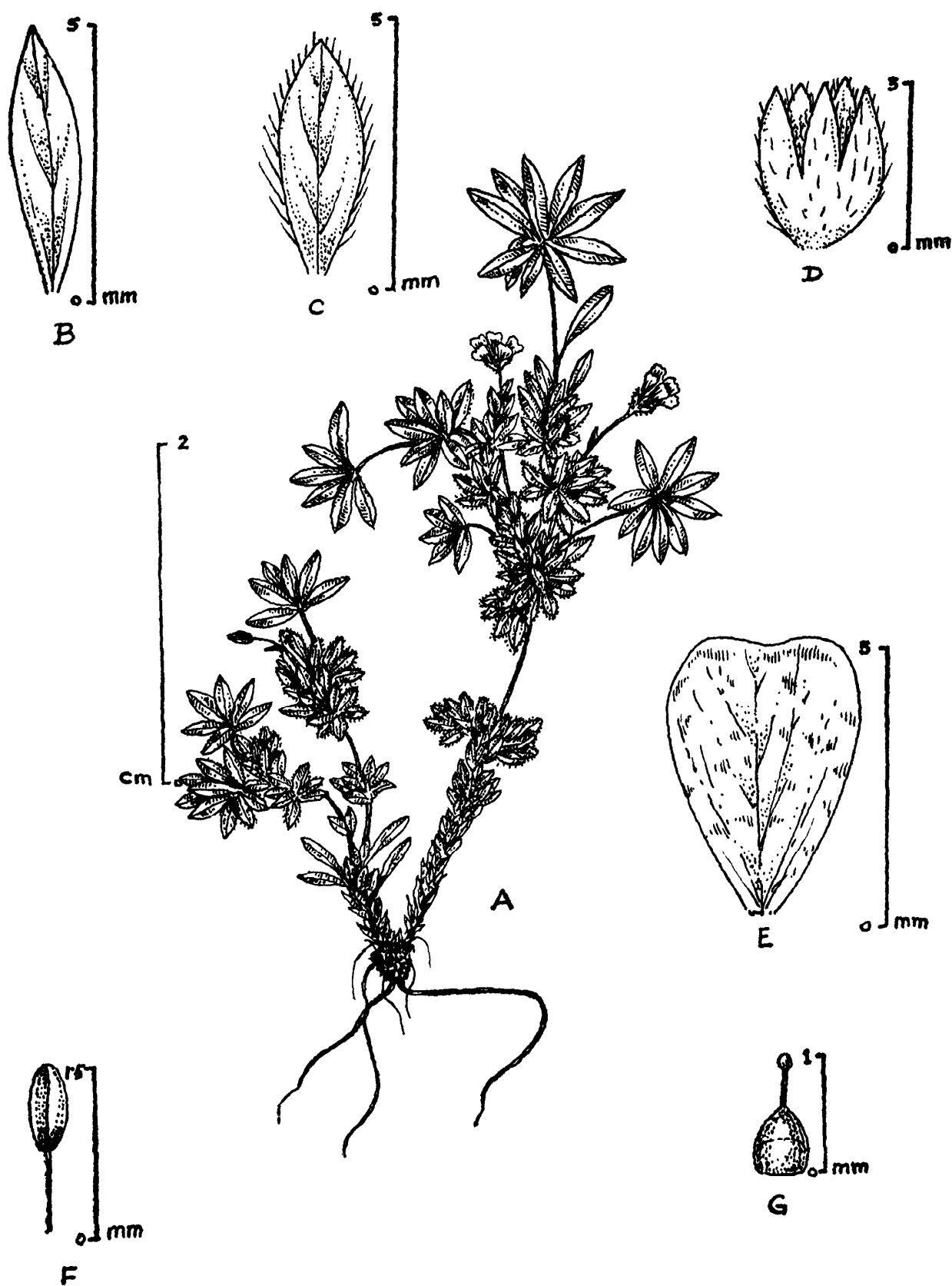
Cushion forming, perennial, stoloniferous herbs; stems 1-5 cm long, simple, glabrous. Leaves 2.5-5 × 1.5-2 mm, closely imbricating, oblong-lanceolate, or lanceolate, entire, acute or subobtuse, lower leaves longer, laxly ciliate, sessile, upper leaves glabrous or ciliate. Flowers 6 mm across, on solitary scapes, scapes 1.0 cm long, glabrous or sparsely ciliate; bracts 4 mm long, solitary at the base of scapes; calyx 3 mm long, 5 lobed to half way down, acute or obtuse, densely ciliate; corolla tube minute, lobes 5, 5 mm long, obcordate, pale blue; stamens *ca* 1.5 mm long, anthers .5 mm long; ovaries *ca* .5 mm long, globose, styles *ca* .5 mm long. Fruit *ca* 1 mm long, globose; seeds 2.

Holotype : INDIA : Uttar Pradesh, Chamouli Garhwal, Hemkund, 4200 m, U. C. Bhattacharyya 29497 A (CAL); 29497 B (*Isotype* : BSD).

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Androsace garhwalicum Balodi & Singh

Figs. A-G : A. Habit. B. Upper leaf. C. Lower leaf. D. Calyx. E. Petal. F. Stamen. G. Gynoecium.