

SAXIFRAGA CHADWELLII WADHWA — A NEW SPECIES FROM LADAKH (INDIA)

B. M. WADHWA

Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun

A B S T R A C T

A new species, *Saxifraga chadwellii* Wadhwa, is described from Ladakh (India).

Saxifraga chadwellii Wadhwa *sp. nov.* ad sectionem *Hirculum* (Haw.) Tausch. pertinet, ex affinitate *Saxifraga montanae* H. Sm., sed caulibus rubissimis et pilis crispis fuscis praesertim ad foliorum bases floresque infra dense intectis; foliorum basium caulorumque marginibus fusco-pilosis; sepalis ovatis extus margineque longe fusco-pilosis; petalis ellipticis brevissime unguiculatis, margine pilis longis crispis fuscis intecto differt. Typus: Ladakh (India); Pense La, 4117 m, *C. Chadwell* 185 (Holotypus K).

Saxifraga chadwellii Wadhwa *sp. nov.*

Plants densely caespitose, many stemmed, 7.5-11.5 cm tall. Stem very red, copiously covered with brown curled hairs, more so at bases of the leaves and below the flower. Rosette leaves up to 3.3 cm long, with long ferruginous, crisped hairs on the margins, often with minute glands, lamina lanceolate, 1.6×0.8 cm, apex obtuse, at base gradually narrowed into petiole; cauline leaves a few only, lower ones subpetiolate, upper ones shorter, ovate-lanceolate, 7×2.2 mm, all on the margins long ferruginous hairy, hairs crisped, sometimes minute capitulate.

Hypanthium at the base ferruginous hairy. Sepals ovate, 5.0×1.6 mm, with

long brown hairs on outer surface and margins, nerves 3-5, free. Petals yellow, elliptic, very shortly clawed, 6.0×2.5 mm, hardly 1 mm longer than sepals, margins with long curled brownish hairs, nerves 3, lateral nerves bifurcating. Stamens + equal, up to 4.8 mm long, anther — sacs producing pollens + 1 mm thick and long. Ovary cup-shaped, styles short, robust, 1.5 mm long; stigma robust. Capsule not seen (Fig.).

INDIA : Ladakh, Pensa La, 4117 m. Very red hairy stems; grassy banks of mountain streams; occasional, 26 July, 1981; *C. Chadwell* 185 (Holotypus K).

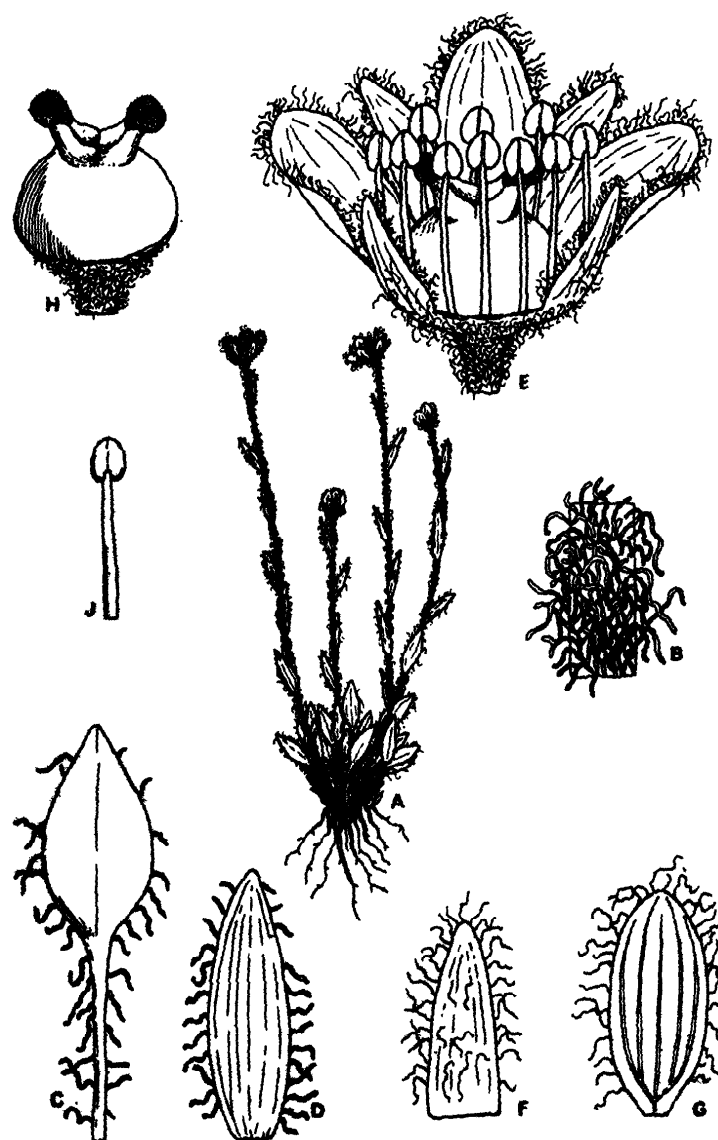
This belongs to section *Hirculum* (Haw.) Tausch., and is related to *Saxifraga montana* H. Sm., but differs in plants with very red stems, copiously covered with brown curled hairs, more so at bases of the leaves and below the flower; leaf margins of both rosette and cauline leaves with brown hairs; sepals ovate with long brown hairs on outer surface and margins; petals elliptic, very shortly clawed, margins with long curled brown hairs.

This taxon has been named after Mr. Christopher A. Chadwell, Slough, Berks (U.K.), who has collected this material from Ladakh.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is highly thankful to the Director, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew (U.K.), for providing the facilities and to Mr. C. A. Chadwell for loaning his material. He is

equally thankful to Miss. Melanie Willmot-Dear to Kew herbarium for help in Latin and to Mrs. Sujata Malini Goonetilleke, Botany Deptt., Univ. of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka for help in drawing.



Saxifraga chadwellii Wadhwa

Figs. A-H : A. Habit $\times 1$. B. Upper portion of stem $\times 18$. C. Lower leaf $\times 3$. D. Upper leaf $\times 9$. E. Flower $\times 9$. F. Calyx $\times 9$. G. Petal $\times 9$. H. Ovary $\times 9$. J. Stamen $\times 9$ (Drawn from the type).