

**EPILOBIUM LADAKHIANUM T.K. PAUL A NEW SPECIES FROM INDIA****T.K. PAUL***Botanical Survey of India, Howrah*

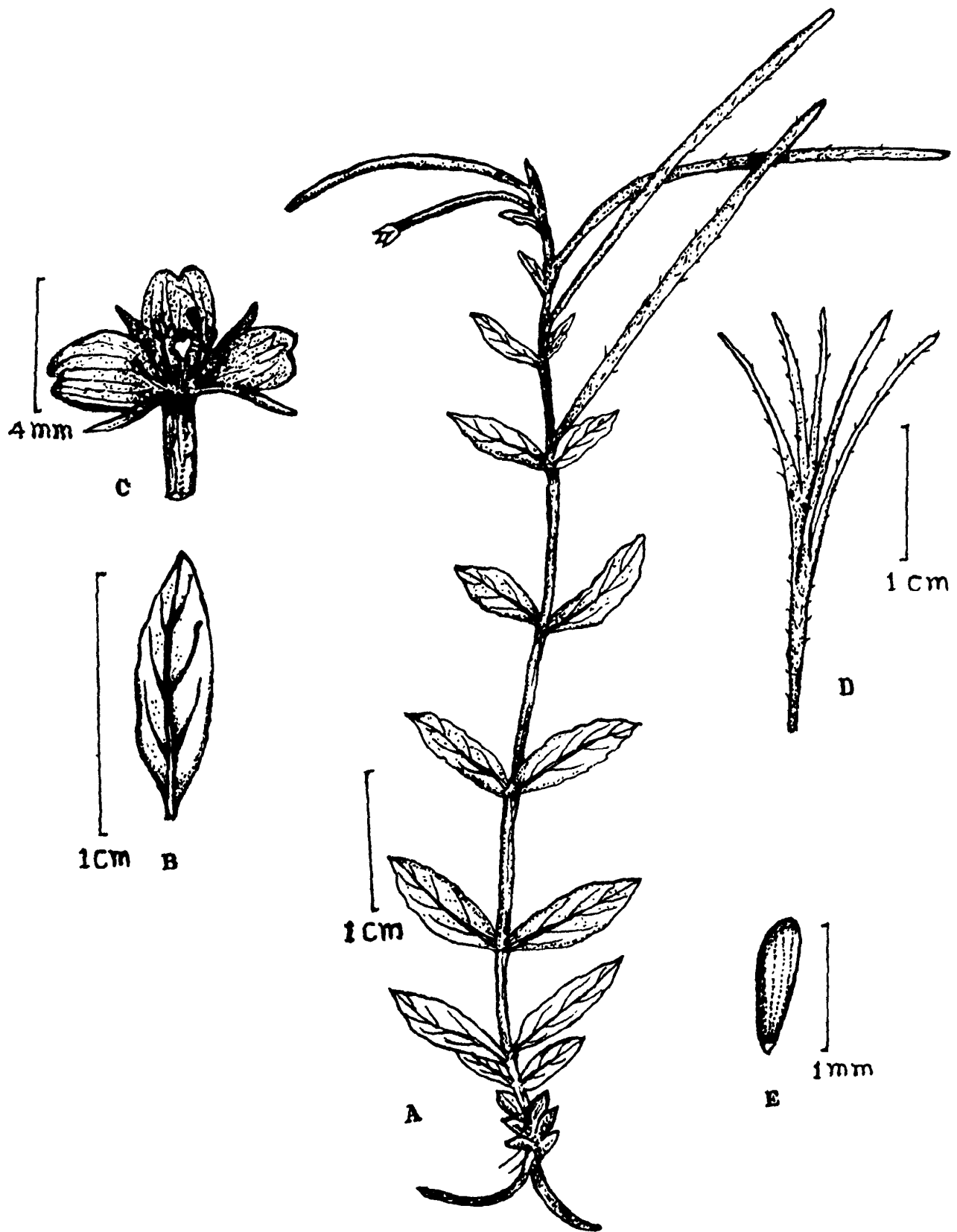
During the course of revisionary studies on the genus *EPILOBIUM* L. in India, a part of Flora India project, the author came across some specimens collected from Ladakh (Jammu & Kashmir) which after critical examination revealed to be taxonomically different from any other species described so far. The genus with about 185 species is distributed mostly in temperate regions of the world with major concentration in North America, Eurasia and Australasia. In India 29 species have already been reported under the genus mostly confined in higher Himalayan zones. *E. ladakhianum* is thus an additional species from Ladakh which is described here with illustrations.

***Epilobium ladakhianum* T.K. Paul *sp. nov.***

Affinis *E. williamsii* Raven, sed caules 3-7 cm longiis, foliis oblango-lanceolatus, marginibus obscure denticulatus, petala 3.5-4 mm longa, stigma clavatum, semina fusiformis differt.

Holotypus lectus in loco Ganglas-Khardung La, Ladakh, Jammu Kashmir, die 8-8-1988, et positus in Herb BSD subnumero Chowdhery & Uniyal 86083.

Erect herbs, base stout with short soboles or leafy rosettes, basal scales obovoid, *ca.* 3×1.5 mm, apex subacute, margins entire. Stem 3-7 cm long, stout, simple, sometimes branched from base, glabrous except 2 (or 4) raised strigillose lines decurrent from margins of the petioles. Leaves opposite, alternate on inflorescence, cauline blade 8-15 × 3-7 mm, oblong-lanceolate, glabrous, margin obscurely denticulate or subentire, apex obtuse to acute, base broadly cuneate to rounded, lateral veins 3-6 on either side of midvein; sessile or petioles up to 1 mm long. Inflorescence mostly nodding before anthesis; pedicels 0.5-2 mm long. Flowers nodding or erect in bud, buds obovoid, apiculate, with few scattered hairs. Sepals 4, 3-3.5 × 0.5-0.9 mm lanceolate, glabrous or with few spreading hairs. Petals 4, 3.5-4 × 1.5-2 mm, oblong to obovate, apical notch *ca.* 1 mm deep, light pink. Longer stamens *ca.* 2.5 mm long, shorter stamens *ca.* 1 mm long. Ovaries 1-1.5 cm long, with scattered hairs; style *ca.* 1.5 mm long; stigma 0.5 mm long, clavate. Capsules 2.5-4 cm long, glabrous or with few scattered hairs, on pedicels 5-8 mm long. Seeds 1 × 0.3 mm, fusiform, shortly beaked,



*Epilobium ladakhianum*. A. Habit; B. Basal leaf;  
C. Flower (one petal and two stamens removed); D. Capsule and E. Seed.

with inconspicuous chalazal collar, surface papillose, coma 5-6 mm long, dull white, easily detached.

Differs from *E. williamsii* Raven in having stems up to 7 cm long, sometimes branched from base, leaves oblong-lanceolate, margin obscurely denticulate, petals smaller (3.5-4 mm), stigma clavate and fusiform seeds; whereas in *E. williamsii* the stems are up to 25 cm long, well branched throughout, leaves ovate or elliptic ovate, margins more or less densely serrulate, petals longer (5-6.5 mm), stigma capitate and seeds narrow obovoid.

*Holotype* : Jammu & Kashmir : Ganglas-Khardung La (Ladakh), 8.8.1988, *Chowdhery*

& *Uniyal* 86083 (BSD).

*Additional specimen* : Jammu & Kashmir, Panikhar (Ladakh), 30.7.1988, *Chowdhery* & *Uniyal* 85919 (BSD). (4 plants in a sheet).

*Fl. & Fr.* : July-August.

*Ecology* : The species grows in moist places along water course.

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