



PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES

A New Meconopsis from Yunnan

Author(s): D. Prain

Source: *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)*, Vol. 1918, No. 6 (1918), pp. 211-213

Published by: Springer on behalf of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4118522>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 03:16 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Springer, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)*

XXIII.—A NEW MECONOPSIS FROM YUNNAN.

D. PRAIN.

In an interesting letter to Kew, dated 30th October, 1917, Mr. George Forrest has enclosed for identification two specimens of *Meconopsis*, representing the only two species found during the season 1917, that are novelties to him.

Regarding one of the two the letter, which is written from the Upper Mekong in North-west Yunnan, says:—"The species in fruit of which I can send only a portion was collected by my man whilst securing seed of *M. speciosa*, and it may prove only a form of that species." As neither flowers nor leaves are present it is not possible yet to identify the plant. The material sent shows that the species is a member of the group *Aculeatae* (*K.B.* 1915, p. 144). The capsules show, however, that it is not *M. aculeata*, Royle, *M. latifolia*, Prain, or *M. sinuata*, Prain, and that it is neither *M. horridula*, Hook. f. & Thoms., nor *M. rudis*, Prain. The capsules are like those of *M. Prattii*, Prain, but this latter species has not so far been collected in the region to which *M. speciosa*, Prain, appears to be confined; comparison with the capsules of *M. speciosa* is impossible, as the ripe fruits of that species are not yet known.

It may be remarked incidentally that in the letter under notice, Mr. Forrest announces the rediscovery of a *Meconopsis* (his n. 13169) first met with by him in 1914. The specimens of that gathering are in fruit only and the capsules are not distinguishable from those of *M. integrifolia*. Mr. Forrest alludes to it now as "a smaller plant in every way than the type *M. integrifolia*, with all parts, especially the capsule, heavily clothed with long, shining, straw-coloured bristly hairs. The flowers are white, smaller than *M. integrifolia*. It is apparently a rare form, for I only saw a few specimens of it in one locality, on the Hom-pu Shan, which is a spur of the Bei-ma Shan, both being portions of the Mekong-Yangtze divide in Lat. 28° 12' N.; very exposed rocky situation at approximately 14,000 ft." No plants raised from the 1914 seed of this plant have been reported at Kew. It is to be hoped that greater success may attend the seeds collected in 1917.

Mr. Forrest, in this letter, further states that "*M. integrifolia*, as seen on the Bei-ma Shan differs materially from the type found in the other ranges to the south and west in this province. The plants are taller, flowers larger, borne on stouter stems, the inflorescence almost apical, seldom branched from mid-stem, never from the base. The capsules are much larger and narrower and almost devoid of hairs." Growers of *Meconopsis* will look forward with interest to the results of sowing the seeds of this Bei-ma Shan plant. The old problem, with regard to the differences between the true *M. integrifolia*, Franch., and the very distinct species, which in externals so closely resembles *M. integrifolia*, first raised from seed secured by Captain Koslov in Kham, will suggest itself to those interested, as Mr. Forrest is, in this genus. Among the species of which seeds have been

obtained during 1917, Mr. Forest mentions, in addition to those already noted by him, *M. Henrici*, Bur. & Franch., and *M. lancifolia*, Franch.; he also alludes to a form allied to *M. lancifolia* and adds the interesting remark:—"so far I have not found *M. rudis* in this area."

The most interesting, from the botanical and distributional standpoint, of the species alluded to in this letter, is that represented by the second specimen—a flowering one—therein enclosed. The species it represents, besides being new to Mr. Forest, is new to the genus. It belongs to the section *Eumeconopsis*, in all the species of which any hairs that may be present are simple, not barbellate. Within that section its place is in the group *Cumminsia* (*K.B.* 1915, p. 142), and in that group it stands intermediate between *M. lyrata*, Fedde, a rare Sikkim plant and *M. polygonoides*, Prain, an equally rare plant from Chumbi, resembling the former very closely as regards its foliage and being at first sight hardly distinguishable from the latter as regards its flowers. It agrees with both these Himalayan species in the colour of its petals, but differs from them both in having half as many more stamens—24 in place of 16. Ripe capsules not being yet available, neither these nor the seeds can be described. The material supplied is, however, otherwise adequate for purposes of diagnosis, and the necessary formal account of the species is appended. Its place in the group to which it belongs will be most readily appreciated from the modification required in that portion of the 'Key to the known species of *Meconopsis*' (*K.B.* 1915, p. 137 et seq.) relating to *Cumminsia*, which the existence of this plant involves (l.c. p. 138).

Flowers blue or purple; leaves hirsute:—

Leaves hastate entire, or lyrate-pinnatifid:—

Petals ovate, rounded or rarely acute, fimbriate; stamens 16 4. *lyrata*.

Petals ovate-lanceolate, acute, entire; stamens 24 4a. *compta*.

Leaves ovate-lanceolate, more or less incised-crenate:—

Petals ovate-lanceolate, acute; stamens 16 5. *polygonoides*.

Petals rounded, obtuse; stamens 64 ... 6. *betonicifolia*.

***Meconopsis compta*, Prain;** species e grege *Cumminsia* nuncupato inter *M. lyratam*, Fedde, et *M. polygonoidem*, Prain, quoad folia quasi medians ab ambabus tamen staminibus 24 nec 16 facillime distinguenda.

Herba perennans, inermis. *Rhizoma* anguste ovoideum, oblique descendens, 1.5 cm. longum, 0.5 cm. latum. *Folia* plerumque radicalia vel prope basin et secus trientem imum scapi disposita, oblonga et lyrato-pinnatifida, apice obtusa, basi late cuneata vel fere truncata ibique abrupte in petiolum anguste alatum basi caulem amplectentem abeuntia, supra saturate

viridia, subtus glaucescentia, utrinque sparse hirsuta, 2.2-5 cm. longa, 1.1-5 cm. lata; petiolus 2.5-3 cm. longus. *Scapus* centralis, 8-22 cm. altus, parce hirsutus, florem terminalem suberectum suffulciens scapis axillaribus subbasalibus simplicibus 1-floris additis. *Sepala* 2, anguste ovata, extra parce hirsuta, 0.8 cm. longa. *Petala* 4, ovato-lanceolata, apice rotundato in acumen abbreviatum acutata, 2 cm. longa, 1 cm. lata, pallide coerulea. *Stamina* 24 filamentis coeruleis; antherae aurantiacae. *Ovarium* anguste ovoideum, glabrum; stylus perbrevis; stigma capitatum lobis decurrentibus contiguus.

SOUTH-EASTERN TIBET: Sarong; in open stony pastures on Ka-gwr-pu, on the Mekong-Salwin Divide, Lat. 28° 25' N., at altitudes of 3600-3900 m., *Forrest* 14306 (July, 1917)!

XXIV.—MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

EDWARD BENBOW, CAPT.—We record with regret the death of Captain E. Benbow, M.C., R.A.F., only son of Mr. J. Benbow, head gardener of the celebrated gardens at La Mortola, Italy, who was killed on May 30, 1918, while contending single-handedly against four or five enemy aeroplanes.

Captain Benbow joined the army in September, 1914, and after obtaining a commission in the Royal Artillery transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, where he gained the reputation of a brave and intrepid airman.

R. H. PEARSON.—The widespread sorrow occasioned by the death of Mr. Robert Hooper Pearson, the Managing Editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, which took place on June 11, is shared by his many friends at Kew where, about thirty years ago, he was a member of the gardening staff. Born at Brewood in Staffordshire on July 18, 1866, Pearson came to Kew in 1889 and was soon promoted to a sub-foremanship. Leaving in March, 1890, he entered the gardens of the Marquis of Bute at Cardiff Castle, and afterwards spent some time in the gardens at Patshull Hall, Staffordshire. In 1892 he was invited by Dr. M. T. Masters, then Editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, to join his staff. He became Assistant-editor, and about ten years ago was appointed Managing Editor. Though ardently devoted to his main work he found time for other activities in connection with horticultural interests, and in addition to contributing articles to other papers he wrote a useful little book on Garden Pests and edited the several excellent volumes forming the Present Day Gardening series. In 1911 he was President of the Kew Guild and an appreciative notice of him, with portrait, appeared in the Guild Journal for 1909-10. The *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1917, vol. lxi, p. 214, and 1918, vol. lxiii, pp. 246 and 256, gives further particulars of Mr. Pearson's life and work and expresses the great affection and esteem with which he was regarded by his colleagues and friends.
