locule; style basilar, thick; stigma obsoletely 4-lobed; staminodes 4, with small barren anthers. Fruit not seen. (Text figs. 1-4).

This new variety differs from the typical variety in having small, membranous leaves crowded towards the ends of branches, and flowers in slender, sparse, spreading, glabrous, paniculate cymes.

A rare plant; only few trees were observed on exposed rocky slopes and along the outskirts of evergreen forests at the top of Agastyamalai Hills.

In 1915, J.S. Gamble while examining *Barber* 2934, indicated on the herbarium sheet that it belonged to a variety of *Euodia lunuankenda* but left it undescribed. As a result of our studies conducted both in the field and in herbaria, we have no hesitation in following up Gamble's hint and describing this as a new variety.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

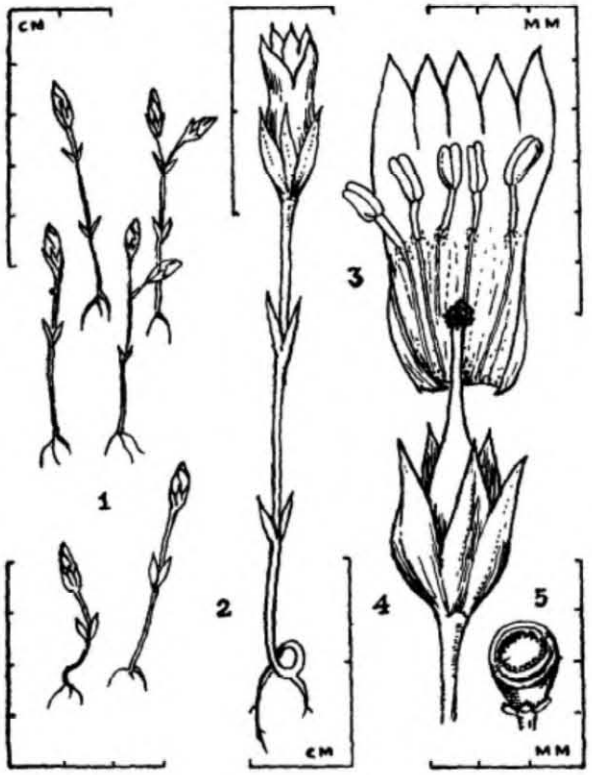
We are thankful to the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England and Mr. A. R. Smith also of Kew, and Dr. I. T. Vassilczenko, Curator of the Herbarium, Komarov Botanical Institute, Leningrad, U.S.S.R. for providing facilities to one of us (A.N.H.) to work in their herbaria. We are also indebted to Dr. K. Subramanyam and Dr. S. K. Jain for their helpful suggestions.

A. N. HENRY AND M. CHANDRABOSE
Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore

SEBAEA KHASIANA C. B. CL.—A LITTLE KNOWN GENTIANACEAE HERB FROM KAMENG DISTRICT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Sebaea khasiana was described by C. B. Clarke (1875) on a collection of his from Kollong Rock in the Khasi Hills. Subsequently in his account of the family Gentianaceae for the Flora of British India (1883), Clarke indicated the distribution in N. W. Himalayas and Nepal on the basis of collections of Edgeworth and Wallich respectively. *Sebaea* R. Br. is a genus with a scattered distribution, (apart from India) in Africa, Madagascar, Australia and New Zealand. Although Clarke described his plant as a new species, he remarked that "..... the plant collected by Welwitsch in Angola is identical with the Indian, except that its anthers are minutely apiculate". Welwitsch's plant (*S. welwitschii*) as also Clarke's *S. khasiana* have been treated as conspecific with *S. aurea* R. Br. However, a definite taxonomic and nomenclatural conclusion can be arrived at only on the basis of a detailed study of adequate materials. In the attempt to do this in the context of a small collection of these plants from Kameng district, material was requested on loan, and it was found that excepting for just one sheet of Clarke's in the Calcutta Herbarium (*In saxo Kollong, Khasiae, s.n.*) there is no other collection available in the Indian Herbaria. Very likely Edgeworth's and Wallich's specimens are in England. Our collection therefore is of considerable interest as the first after more than a century of the original collection and further as an additional locality, now in the Eastern Himalayas. In view of the paucity of earlier Indian materials for study and the difficulty involved in obtaining extra Indian materials, we are abstaining from deciding on the identity of the Indian plant with that of the African or Australian ones, and in the thought that it would help additional collections in other localities we are providing a detailed description with illustration (figs. 1-5) and also its pollen morphology.

Sebaea khasiana C. B. Cl. in J. Linn. Soc.



Sebaea khasiana C. B. Cl.

Figs.: 1-5. 1. Habit. 2. Plant enlarged. 3. Corolla opened. 4. Calyx and Pistil. 5. T. S. of ovary.

14: 428. 1875 et in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 4: 99. 1883. *S. microphylla* Knobl. in Bot. Centralbl. 60: 324. 1894. *Cicendia microphylla* Edgew. in Trans. Linn. Soc. 20: 83. 1846. *Erythraea microphylla* Benth. in Gen. Pl. 2: 811. 1876.

Tiny herbs, 2-7 cm tall. Stems slender, simple or rarely branched; radical leaves absent; cauline leaves scale like, sessile, *ca* 2.5 mm long, linear-lanceolate, acute. Flowers in 1-2-flowered cymes, 5.5-10.5 mm long, regular; calyx-lobes 5, imbricate, 3.5-4.5 mm long; corolla-tube 3.5-5.5 mm long, straight; lobes contorted, 5, pale yellow 3.0-5.0 mm long; anthers 5, epipetalous, each on a very short filament, narrowly oblong, gland-tipped; ovary cylindrical, 2-loculed, *ca* 4.5 mm long; placenta large, the locules obscure due to the fleshy placenta; ovules indefinite; style short; stigma scaly, ellipsoid, flattened.

Flowers: October-November.

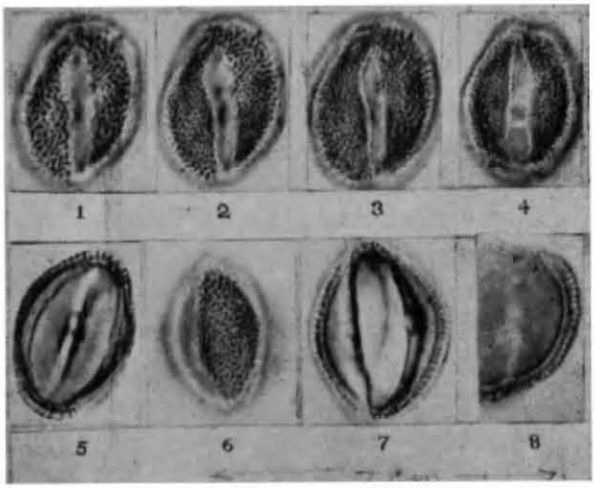


Plate: Different views of pollen grains: 1-3: Meridional view: three successive foci to show the structure of the exine. 4. Meridional view: endoaperture. 5. Optical section: annulus encircling endoaperture. 6-7. Meridional view: intercolpium and optical section. 8. Optical section of exine.

On west facing cool shady, moist hill slopes, micaceous clay, under *Pinus, Quercus, Pieris* and *Rhododendron*. Rare.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH: Kameng-Lis village, north of Dirang, on way to Sappar-*A. S. Rao* 49527.

Pollen Morphology: Pollen grains are tetracolporate (60%) or tricolporate (40%). Ectoaperture long, elliptic; endoaperture circular (3μ) or elliptic (4 × 2.5μ, parallel to the ectoaperture) encircled by an annulus of 1μ width. Exine semitectate, coarsely reticulate or slightly striato-reticulate. Lumina in the intercolpium are bigger (1.0-1.5μ) and few whereas those near the aperture are smaller (0.5μ) and numerous. Muri 0.5μ in width and simplicolumellate. Exine thicker at poles (3μ) than at equator (1.8μ).

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A. S. RAO
Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun
AND
P. K. HAJRA
Botanical Survey of India, Shillong