

Rosa Webbiana Wallich.

The *Rosa Webbiana* was distributed by Wallich under this name and it bears the number G683 in its Cat. Herb. Ind., Mais it was only later that the species was described and figured by Royle in his Illustration of Rotany of the Hymalaya and Cashemere, p. 208, tab. 42, fig. 2 (1839). This species was later described and figured under various names, which is due to the great variability of this type and perhaps to the ignorance where the authors of the description and figure of Royle. That's how Bertoloni described and figured this type as *R. unguicularis* (Miscellanea botanica XXI in Memorie of the Academy of Sciences of the Institute of Bologna, tome XII, 1861, p. 235, tab. 3) and who, if I see correctly, appears to have been described and figured by Mr. Klotzsch under the name of *R. Guilelmi-Waldemarii* (Botanische Ergebnisse der Reise des Prinzen Waldemar, p. 153, tab. 8). Forms of the same species have even been distributed by MM. Hooker son and Thomson as *R. pimpinellifolia* L.

The very many materials that I have been able to study in the herbarium of M. von Schlagintweit, those that I saw in the herbaria of Berlin, von Martius and M. Cosson allowed me to study *R. Webbiana* well, and to see how great is the variability of this type. By adopting the specification principles that guide the school of which Mr. Jordan can be considered the head, I could very easily subdivide *R. Webbiana* into more than half a dozen species. This is what we can do all types foreign to Europe, including the area of dispersion is more or less large. If so far they have not been subdivided for the most part, that is that they have not been studied in the sense of the Jordanian school or that their forms are not yet numerous in the herbaria.

After the description of the specific characters of the type of Wallich, I will point out the main varieties that I have could study.

Rosa Webbiana Wall, in Royle III. Bot. Hym. and Cash., p. 208, tab. 42, fig. 2; Wall. Cat., no 685; *R. unguicularis* Bert. Mem. Accad. Bol., XII, p. 255, tab. o; *R. Guilelmi-Waldemarii* K'z. Bot. Erg. d. Reis. d. Prinz. Wald., p. 153, tab. 3; *R. pimpinellifolia* Hook. f. et Thoms. Herb. Ind. Or. non L. ; R. Strachey et J.-E. Winterboltom Hymalayan Herbarium, no 6 (pro parte).

Shrub. Shrub appearing to be sometimes small, growing slow, sometimes medium in size and fairly vigorous growing.

Stems. Bark glabrous, tinged purple on one side and probably a little glaucous, becoming dark brown, spiked, with spines ord. regularly twinned under the leaves, spindly, with ord point. very long, straight, and often a little raised, resting on a slightly dilated basis, yellowish.

Flowering branches. Very short or rather long flowering branches, bark often a little purpurine, ord. unarmed, or goaded, to spines the same shape as those on the stems, but smaller.

Leaves. Leaves 5-9-foliolate. Stipules small, hairless or pubescent, superficially denticulate at the edges, with fairly narrow wings, those slightly dilated upper ones, with slightly divergent lanceolate atria. Petioles glabrous or pubescent, ord. unarmed, rarely glandular. Leaflets very small or rather large, ord. firm and tough, light green, more or less glaucous on both sides, pubescent or glabrous on both

sides, very rarely glandular on the entire underside, simply toothed, with fairly wide teeth, very rarely with teeth with 1-2 glands, ovate-elliptical, oval, obovate or suborbicular, slightly attenuated or rounded at the base, briefly petiolate or sessile, rounded at the top, or a little truncated, or briefly and obscurely sharp.

Inflorescence. Flowers ord. solitary pedicels accompanied by a leaf reduced, more rarely of a bract; very rarely flowers gathered in number of 2-4. Bracts ovate-lanceolate. Pedicels ord. elongated (5-25 mill.), rarely short (4-5 mill.), more or less flexuous, glabrous or a little hairy, smooth or hispid-glandular, often more or less inclined or leaning at maturity. Reception small or fairly large floriferous, ord. ovoid, more rarely subglobular, smooth or finely hispid-glandular. Sepals entire, lanceolate, imperceptibly terminated by a long point slightly dilated at the top, ord. a little glandular on the back, pubescent on the inner side, straightening up after anthesis, persistent, spread-erect or more or less convergent on the fruiting receptacle. Corolla ord. enough large (4-5 cent, in diameter), with broad petals, obovate, somewhat indented at the top, protruding north. the sepals. Hairy-woolly styles down to the stigma, forming ord. a large stigmatic flower head sessile. Fruitful receptacle ord. quite large, ovoid, sharply attenuated at the base, strongly constricted at the top.

Flowering. Flowers from the end of June and July and ripens in September and October.

Dispersal area. The indications found in the herbarium of M. von Schlagintweit are: Tibet. Balti Province: Saling (on the right side of the Shayok opposite Khapalu) to Hushe (on the Tsetanga river). Heigt (engl. Ft. 7995 to 10440). - Thumgaks (on the northern foot of the Tsorbat La Pass) to Poen (opposite Tsorbat). 12000 to 8879 engl. ft. Hushe via Haldi to Thorkonda. 10440 to 8639 to 11156 engl. ft. - Hushe to Brumi Rama (on Ihc way from Hushe up to Sospor glacier). 10440 to 13053 engl. ft. - Province of Dras: Mulbe to Dras. 10480 to 9951 engl. ft. - Surrounding the hot springs near Mulbe. 10480 engl. ft. - Ladak Province: Kharbu Koma to Shaksi (southwest of Dah. 10600 engl. Ft. - Province of Gnari Khorsun: Poti via Lomorti to Poling. 17000 to 14000 engl. ft. - Laptel to Selchell and Hoti (south of the Satley). 14000 to 16200 engl. ft. - Province of Spiti: Northern foot of Tari Pass via Mud to southern foot of Parang Pass. 15000 to 1130 engl. ft. - Hasora Province: Top to Masenno glacier (Lolio Duru) and Aschursbott (Diemer glacier group). Tashing (northwest of Astor or Hasora). 9692 engl. ft. - Tsanskar Province: Sulle to Padum. 12717 to 11592 engl. ft. - MM. Strachey and Wintcrbottom distributed the species as originating from Niti, Carhwal province at an elevation of 11,500 feet English. - Wallich handed it out from Sirmor. - MM. Hooker and Thomson did not report a specific locality for the samples that they published and only state: "Him. Bor. occ. "- Royle says the species was found in Lippa in Kamaan province and at the Kherung Pass by Mr. Inglis. - Based on the data we we have, *R. Webbiana* is above all a species that inhabits in the western part of the immense mountain range formed by the Himalayas and Tibet.

The species was dedicated to Captain Webb who was the first to discovered it in Kamaan province and in sent samples to Wallich.

If we saw in isolation some forms of *R. Webbiana*, one would be tempted to see so many different species there, so many this type varies in its facies. Based on the differences of the various organs, I could delimit at least half a dozen varieties, but until I can study materials even more complete than those that I had in front of me, I will content myself with characterizing only three varieties, based on the shape and dimensions of leaflets.

Var. α . *genuina*. Poor leaflets (8-10 mill. Wide by 8-154 mill. long.), ord. a little obovate, a

little attenuated at the base, rounded or a little truncated at the top, with ord edges. whole in their lower third. Royle loc. cit., tab. 42, fig. 2; *R. unguicularis* Bert. loc. cit., tab. 3.

Var. β . *latifolia*. Fairly large leaflets (10-20 mill. Wide by 15-30 mill. long.), broadly oval, rounded a little attenuated at the base, ord. briefly acute at the top, with teeth extending lower at the edges of the limb. Stipular wings and auricles more dilated than in var. α .

Var. γ . *microphylla*. Very small leaflets (3-8 mill. Wide by 5-10 mill. long.), elliptical-obovate or suborbicular, attenuated or rounded at the base, rounded or a little truncated at the top, with ord edges. whole in their lower third. Flowers small, with ord. Short.

These three varieties relate to each other by variations intermediaries. The var. *microphylla* is the form that especially engaged MM. Hooker son and Thomson to see in *R. Webbiana* a form of *R. pimpinellifolia*. We could offer a fourth variety under the name of *glandulosa*, with glabrous leaflets, entire underside loaded with fine glands that are not very persistent, with teeth of 1-2 glands. This variety appears to be very rare.

In the synonymy of the species, it is with doubt that I have reported to it the *R. Guilelmi-Waldemarii* Kltz., despite the magnificent figure that accompanies its description. It may well be that the form described and figured under the latter name was a variety of *R. macrophylla* Wall. ; however by examining the mode of inflorescence, I almost have reason to believe that she represents a form similar to var. *latifolia* of *R. Webbiana*.

The place that *R. Webbiana* should occupy seems to me to be in the section of Pimpinellifoliées, section a little more widely demarcated than has been hitherto done. It is distinguished from *R. spinosissima* by its prickles which are usually geminate at least in the upper part of the stems and on the flowering branches, by the absence spines set on this part of the axes. I say on this part of the axes, because I believe, if I judge by young stems of the species cultivated at Kew, that the part lower rods can be loaded with many prickles very slender, very uneven, sparse and quite similar to those of *R. spinosissima*. This would be a character that would bring *R. Webbiana* even closer to *R. spinosissima*. The first of these differs, moreover, from the second, by its usually thick leaflets, more or less leathery, of a light green or a little yellowish, for its stipules with not very divergent auricles and not a not very leafy, by its inflorescence which can present, rarely it is true, 2-4 flowers, and by the pedicel of its solitary flower that can offer a bract at its base, by its usually larger fruiting receptacle, usually ovoid, attenuated-constricted at the top.

R. Webblana, a type extremely distinct from *R. spinosissima*, is the representative of Pimpinellifoliées in Tibet and the Western Himalayas.

In closing, I must point out that MM. Strachey and Winterbottom distributed, with various forms of the *R. Webbiana*, a peculiar form, with small leaflets, pubescent and strongly glandular below, prickly long and arched, not geminate under the leaves where they are however brought together by 3-5, with flowering receptacles narrow and elongated, very glandular. This form that I named, in the herbarium of von Martius, *R. Winterbottomii* recalls by its characters *R. Webbiana* and *R. macrophylla*. Perhaps it is a separate type.