

A NEW RHODODENDRON FROM GUNONG TAHAN

By Dr. J. J. Smith

Rhododendron Seimundii J. J. S., sp. nov.

Frutex innovationibus c. 6-0.7 cm. longis, ramulis teretibus, dense brevissime puberulis. *Folia* 5-10 in innovationum parte superiore alterna, remota, parva, breviter petiolata, oblongo-obovata vel elliptica, interdum fere lanceolata, apice rotundata vel obtusa, sæpe distincte crasse apiculata, basi angustata acutiuscula vel acuta, sicco margine recurva crenulata, adulta supra glabra rugulosa-que, subtus sparse lepidota plus minusve glabrescentia, deinde subtus et etiam supra præsertim versus basin impressæ punctata, scrobiculis margine leviter elevatis, supra in utraque parte costæ mediæ supra sulcatæ subtus bene obtuse prominentis convexa, nervis lateralibus obsoletis, crasse coriacea, supra nitide nigro-fusca, subtus atrofusca, c. 1.25-2.8 cm. longa, 0.475-1.1 cm. lata; petiolus subteres, supra applanatus, dense minutissime puberulus lepidotusque, c. 0.2-0.4 cm. longus. *Gemmæ* floriferæ terminales, ovoideæ, c. 0.8-0.85 cm. longæ, ramentis exterioribus ovatis, obtusis, dorso dense pubescentibus lepidotisque, ciliolatis. *Flores* 2-4, pedicellati, pedicello cum ovario angulum obtusum faciente, tereti, sparse lepidoto, 0.9-1.2 cm. longo. *Calyx* obliquus inæqualiter 5-lobus, lepidotus. *Corolla* infundibuliformis, 5-fida, extus loborum margine lato glabro excepto sparse lepidota, intus glabra, secta et explanata flabelliformis, c. 1.9 cm. longa, limbo 2.6 cm. lato, tubo c. 0.8 cm. longo, basi 0.8 cm., apice 1.6 cm. lato, lobis obovatis, ut videtur interdum subretusis, c. 0.9-1 cm. longis, 0.6-0.7 cm. latis. *Stamina* 10, c. 1.8 cm. longa; filamentum lineare, glabrum; anthera supra basin dorsifixæ, oblonga, basi obtusa, poris 2 oblique introrsis hians, c. 0.175 cm. longa. *Ovarium* breviter ovoideo-conicum, obtusum, valde 5-angulato-caniculatum, dense lepidotum, c. 0.225 cm. longum, 0.2 cm. diam.; stylus impositus, filiformis, basi lepidota excepta glaber, cum stigmate capitato 5-lobulato 1.7 cm. longus. *Discus* annularis, 10-lobulatus, glaber, 0.2 cm. diam.

MALAY PENINSULA: Pahang, Gunong Tahan, 5,500 ft. (E. Seimund, Nos. 159, 175, 343, 893, February—March, 1921).

Amongst the *Rhododendron* material which the Director of Gardens, Straits Settlements, very kindly sent me on loan for study, I found, partly under *R. spathulatum* Ridl., partly under *R. elegans* Ridl., specimens of the new species described above.

From the two species mentioned and also from *R. calocodon* Ridl. it is, apart from other characteristics, at once to be distinguished by the corolla, which is cleft to the middle in *R. Seimundii*, whereas in the others the lobes are much shorter than the tube.

Of the remaining Peninsular species with small leaves, viz. *R. Scortechinii*, King et Gamble, *R. pauciflorum*, King et Gamble and *R. perakense*, Ridl., I have seen no material. According to the descriptions, however, *R. Seimundii* is distinct from *R. Scortechinii* in the puberulous twigs, smaller leaves with obsolete nerves and fewer-flowered umbels, from *R. pauciflorum* in the puberulous twigs and petioles, not retuse leaves, more flowered inflorescences, lepidote pedicels, and from *R. perakense* in the puberulous not scaly twigs, narrower leaves with obsolete lateral nerves, larger flowers and a densely lepidote ovary.

Description from herbarium material.
