

Arnebia nandadeviensis (Boraginaceae), a new species from India

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Abstract:

A new species of *Arnebia* (Boraginaceae), *A. nandadeviensis* K. Chandra Sekar & R.S. Rawal, is described from India. [Journal of American Science 2009:5(2) 105-106] (ISSN: 1545-1003)

Keywords: *Arnebia nandadeviensis*, Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, Uttarakhand, India, new species.

1. Introduction

The genus *Arnebia* Forsk. is represented by *ca* 25 species, chiefly distributed in Mediterranean region of the world, especially in tropical Africa and Himalaya (Mabberley, 1998). In India the genus comprises 5 species distributed in Upper gangetic plains and the Himalayan region (Aswal and Mehrotra, 1994). The genus is characterized by white tubercles in the body of plant, flat torus, actinomorphic - campanulate corolla, imbricately folded corolla-lobes; globose inflorescence and 4 partite ovary.

Arnebia nandadeviensis was collected by the authors during ecological vegetational analysis of Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve under the project entitled "Response assessment & processing of knowledge base to serve long term management and use of biodiversity in the Himalaya". This plant was growing on alpine slopes at an altitude of 3800 – 4000 m along with *Anaphalis royleana* DC., *Jurinea dolomiaea* Boiss. and *Poa alpina* L. Critical examination and perusal of literature and herbaria reveal that the plant represents a hitherto unrecognized species. *Arnebia nandadeviensis* closely resembles *Arnebia euchroma* I.M. Johnston but differs in a number of characters (Table 1).

2. Enumeration

Arnebia nandadeviensis K. Chandra Sekar & R. S. Rawal, sp. nov. [Photo. 1 & 2]

Arnebiae euchromae I.M. Johnston, habitu caespitoso, perenni; caule erecto, 10-35 cm; radice atrorubro; foliorum mediano-nervo distincto; inflorescentiis globosis; bracteis linearis-lanceolatis; corollarum tubis angustis; corollae limbo campanulato; stylo exerto; stigmatae distincte 2-partito et ovario globoso similis, sed radecalio-foliis oblanceolato-obovatis, obtusis; caulino-foliis latioribus (1-3 cm latis); inflorescentiis stipitalis, nutantibus; bracteis floribus longioribus; calycibus longioribus (1.7-

2.4 cm); limbis minore latioribus (*ca* 2 mm) et antheris longioribus (6-7 mm) differt.

Typus: India, Uttarakhand, Bageshwar, Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, Pindari, 3820 m a.s.l., 30° 16' 0.2" N Latitude, 80° 00' 23.6" E Longitude, 29.08.2008, R.S. Rawal, K. Chandra Sekar, Sanjay Gairola & Balwant Rawat 2895 (holo GBP; iso BSD).

Perennial tufted herbs; root 1-1.5 cm thick, dark red. Stems few, 10-35 cm high, erect, terete, spreading bristly. Radical leaves 7-10, petioled, oblanceolate to obovate, 10-14 x 1-2.6 cm, obtuse at apex, entire, with distinct single pale green median nerve, glandular-downy, not bristly especially along margin, gradually tapering to broad petiole; petiole 1.5-2.3 cm long, pale green-yellow. Cauline leaves 8-12, sessile, alternate below, almost opposite towards the inflorescence, acute at apex, tapering towards base, slightly glandular-hairy or bristly-ciliate, with single pale green nerve; lower leaves elliptic – lanceolate or lanceolate, 3-8 x 1-2 cm, glandular-hairy above, appressed bristly-ciliate beneath; upper ones ovate or ovate-lanceolate, 3.2-4.8 x 2-3 cm, bristly-ciliate. Inflorescence globose, capitate, stalked at apex of non-branching stem, 6.5-8.5 x 3.5-4.2 cm, nodding; stalk 0.5-1.5 cm long. Bracts numerous, exceeding the flowers, linear-lanceolate, 1.8-2.7 cm long and 2-5 mm wide, entire, acuminate, dense bristly-ciliate along margin, pale green; bristle 1-3 mm long. Flowers nodding, densely covered by bracts, 2-3.2 cm long, pedicelled; pedicel 0.8-1.2 cm long. Calyx slightly longer than corolla, 1.7-2.4 cm long, bristly; lobes linear, 1.4-1.8 cm long, bristly towards apex. Corolla dark red, the narrow tube 1.6-2 cm long; limb campanulate, 1-2 mm long, *ca* 2 mm across, obtuse, bristly along the margin. Anthers attached near the middle of corolla tube, 6-7 mm long, stalked; stalk 1-2 mm long. Style exerted; stigma distinctly 2-parted. Ovary globose, 2-3 mm across, ovules small.

Flowering and fruiting: June – August.

Ecology: Scarcely growing on alpine slopes at an altitude of 3800 – 4000 m.

Distribution: India, Pindari (Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve), Uttarakhand.

Etymology: The specific epithet '*nandadeviensis*' is based on the type locality, Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve.

Note: *Arnebia nandadeviensis* is closely allied to *Arnebia euchroma* I.M. Johnston in general appearance having tufted perennial habit; 10-35 cm erect stem, dark red root; distinct median nerve of leaves; globose inflorescence; linear-lanceolate bracts; narrow corolla tube, campanulate corolla-limb; exerted style, distinctly 2-parted stigma and globose ovary but differs from the latter in having oblanceolate-obovate, obtuse radical leaves; wider cauline leaves (1-3 cm); stalked with nodding inflorescence; numerous bracts exceeding the flowers; longer calyx (1.7-2.4 cm) with less wider limb (ca 2 mm) and longer anther (6-7 mm).

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Table 1. Distinction between *Arnebia euchroma* I.M. Johnston and *Arnebia nandadeviensis* sp. nov.

| | <i>Arnebia euchroma</i> | <i>Arnebia nandadeviensis</i> |
|----------------|---|---|
| Radical leaves | lanceolate or lanceolate-linear to linear | oblanceolate to obovate |
| | acute at apex | obtuse at apex |
| Cauline leaves | less than 1 cm wide (3-7 mm) | more than 1 cm wide (1-3 cm) |
| Inflorescence | sessile | stalked (0.5-1.5 cm long) |
| | erect | nodding |
| Bracts | few | numerous |
| | not exceeding the flowers | exceeding the flowers |
| Calyx | slightly shorter than the corolla (ca 1.2 cm) | longer than the corolla (1.7-2.4 cm) |
| Corolla | 1.2-1.5 cm long | 1.6-2 cm long |
| | limb half length of corolla-tube (7-8 mm) | limb not half length of corolla-tube (1-2 mm) |
| | limb ca 8 mm across | limb ca 2 mm across |
| Anthers | ca 2.5 mm long | 6-7 mm long |



Fig.1 *Arnebia nandadeviensis* sp. nov. along with associate plants



Fig.2 A twig showing the nodding inflorescence along with cauline leaves

References

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