mixed with flowers, linear-oblong to spatulate, sparsely ciliate dorsally at the tip. Male flowers few, restricted to the topmost or the next lower receptacles, intermingled with female flowers; perianth lobes 4, broadly ovate to suborbicular, obtruse; stamens 4, opposite to the perianth lobes; filaments distinct, inflexed in bud; anthers 2-celled, dehiscing longitudinally. Female flowers numerous; perianth lobes 3, minute, shorter than ovary, broadly oblong, obtruse. Achenes ellipsoid, ribbed, yellowish.

**RHYNCHOGLOSSUM LAZULINUM**—A NEW SPECIES OF GESNERIACEAE

Rhyncoglossum lazulinum A. S. Rao and Joseph sp. nov.

*Herba foetida densa ca 6 dm alta. Caulis cylindricus, levis. Folia alterna et opposita, inferiora longe petiolata, superiora fere sessilia, late obliquocylindricis, 9–2.4 x 3.5–10 cm membranacea, ad apicem acuta vel acuminata, rotunda, subcordata vel decurrentia ad basin, integra ad marginem, nervis lateraliibus 12–15 paulum arcuatis distinctis 5–10 mm inter se distinctis. Inflorescentia racemosa, terminalis, glabra, paulum undulata, 14.5–25.5 cm longa, pauci-vel pluri-flora; bracteae et bracteolae subulatae, ca 4 mm longae, pedicellis validis ad 1 cm longis. Calyx infundibuliformis, ca 4 cm longus, distincte porrectus, viridis; laciniae ca 11 mm longae, multo minores calycis tubo, ovatae, acuminatae, callosae ad apicem; corolla bilabiata, nitenter caerulea vel violacea; tubo glabro, ca 6 cm longo, ca 5 mm diam., aliquamnum dilatato, puberulentolo et eminenter curvato ad faucem; labium inferius 2.5 x 5 cm lobatum, lobis inaequalibus, suborbicularibus; labium superius 2.5 x 3 cm bilobum, lobis aequalibus, ovatis, lobis omnibus obscure crenulatis; stamina didynamia, inaequalia, antheris confuentibus planis, ca 1 cm latis: disco cupulato, 1 mm alto. Ovarium ovoidem, ca 1 cm altum, stylo valido, ca 2.5 cm longo, stigmatibus obtusis, bilobo ca 3 x 2 mm, superficie interna velutina. Fructus capsularis calycye persistente paulum acuminatae et superne crenulatae. Semina plura, ovoidae, minuta (0.5 x 0.25 mm); testa brunea, reticulata (Figs. 1-6).


Rhyncoglossum lazulinum A. S. Rao and Joseph sp. nov.

Succulent malodorous dense herbs about 6 dm high. Stem cylindric, smooth. Leaves alternate as well as opposite, long petioled at lower nodes to sessile near the peduncle; lamina obliquely broadly elliptic, 9–2.4 x 3.5–10 cm membranous, acute to acuminate at apex, strikingly unequal, rounded, subcordate or decurrent at base, entire margin, with 12–30 slightly arching distinct lateral nerves 5–10 mm apart. Inflorescence a terminal raceme, glabrous, slightly undulate, 14.5–25.5 cm long, few to several-flowered; bract and bracteole subulate about 4 mm long; pedicel stout up to 1 cm long; calyx infundibuliform, about 4 cm long, conspicuously ridged, green; calyx lobes about 11 mm long, much smaller than the calyx tube. ovate, acuminate, callose at tip; corolla bilabiata, bright blue to violet; corolla tube glabrous, about 6 cm long, about 5 mm diam., a little dilated puberulent and prominently bent at the throat; lower lip about 2.5 x 5 cm 3-lobed, the lobes unequal, suborbicular; upper lip about 2.5 x 3 cm, 2-lobed, the lobes equal, ovate, all lobes obscurely crenulate;
Stamens didynamous, unequal, the confluent anthers flat, about 1 cm broad; disc cuplike 1 mm high; ovary ovoid about 1 cm high, style stout, about 2.5 cm long, stigma obtusely bilobed, about 3 x 2 mm inner surface velvety. Fruit a capsule within the persistent, slightly accrescent calyx. Seeds many.
ovoid, small (0.5 x 0.25 mm), the testa brown, reticulate (Figs. 1-6).

Holotype: J. Joseph 39716A at Krishna 36 km from Bhallukpong, alt. about 1250 m on the way to Sessa, Kameng district, N.E.F.A. In shady moist places near the way side, on black humus soil, 10 September 1964 (CAL). Isotypes: Joseph 39716 B-F of the same gathering (ASSAM). Paratypes: N. L. Bor 18179 Aka Hills, 1936; G. K. Deka s.n. (B.S.I. Accsn. No. 29477) Balipara F. T. 15.11.51; A. R. K. Sastry 40738 on way from Palim to Sayata, Subansiri district, N.E.F.A. on hilly slopes of damp forest floor and along small streams with Impatiens, on black clayey soil, 15.11.1964.

Mr. B. L. Burtt of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh who studied the two sheets of Deka and Bor, noted that the specimens belonged to an undescribed species. He further noted that “neither of these sheets would be adequate for description as a new species”. Subsequent fuller collections of J. Joseph from Kameng and A. R. K. Sastry from Subansiri proved to be identical material. This has now offered the opportunity to describe the new species.

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A NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF ACONITUM DEINORRHIZUM STAPF IN NORTH-WEST HIMALAYAS

Aconitum deinorrhizum Stapf (Ranunculaceae) the roots of which constitute one of the commercial aconites of India has, rarely, been recorded in the past from north-west Himalayas. The previous record of the species is from Janikanda in Rampur Bashbar (Himachal Pradesh), and the specimen has been used by Stapf (1905) as a type for giving the plant its present name. Stapf has further recognized the specimens collected by Madden from Shatul and Boorun Passes and mentioned under A. ferox as Aconitum deinorrhizum Stapf. It is surprising that no floristic record of the species or the extent of its distribution has yet been made, although the drug derived from the plant reaches the indigenous crude drug markets in fairly large quantities. Investigations in various herbaria revealed a very scanty representation by a few old preserved specimens of Aitchison’s collections from Chamba. Reference of the plant in the existing literature also is scanty as well as confusing. In the Wealth of India (1948) the distribution of the plant is given as from Kunawar to Nepal but the plant has not been recorded yet from any locality in Jaunsar, Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas. This fact has been further confirmed during a survey of commercial aconites in north-west Himalayas by the authors, who found that the crude drug derived from the plant comes only from Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

During a survey of medicinal plants in north-