

A NEW SPECIES OF *ROCHELIA* (BORAGINACEAE) FROM PAKISTAN

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While studying the *Rochelia* material for the flora of Pakistan, one gathering, namely *Bowes Lyon* 789, from Chitral, could not be matched entirely with any of the species found in Pakistan. The gathering was tentatively placed under *R. laxa*. On further examination this gathering proved to be a new species.

Description

Rochelia chitralensis Y. Nasir sp. nov.: *Boraginaceae* in S.I.Ali & Y. Nasir (Eds.), Fl. Pak. 191: 157. f.41, K,L, 1989, in nota.

R. laxa I.M. Johnston: Kazmi in J. Arn. Arb. 52:110, 1971 (p.p); Y.Nasir, l.c. 157 (p.p).

Herba erecta gracilis, dense pubescens, 1.5-7.5 cm alta. Radix palaris bene evoluta haud gracilis. Caulis supra basin 1-3-ramosus, pilosus pilis brevibus, 0.7-0.8 mm longis, rigidis appressis. Pedicelli 2.5-3 mm longi, cum calyce pilosi pilis uncinatis.

An erect slender densely pubescent herb 1.5-7.5 cm tall. Tap root slender, well developed. Stem 1-3-branched from the base. Hairs short, 0.7-0.8 mm long rigid, appressed to the stem; those on the pedicels and calyx uncinata. Fruiting pedicels 2.5-3 mm long.

Type: Chitral: Lutkho, 8500 ft., S.A. *Bowes Lyon* 789 (BM).

Distribution: Known from the type locality only.

The new species closely resembles *R. laxa* I.M. Johnston, but differs in the shorter fruiting pedicels (2.5-3 mm long), the stem generally branched from above and leaves with an indument of stiff appressed, more or less stout hairs. In *R. laxa* the hairs are thin and weak. There is also some resemblance of the new taxon to *R. disperma* as regards the short pedicels (2.5-3 mm long), but *R. chitralensis* has broader calyx lobes that are not inflexed.

Flowering period: May-June.

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Reference

Nasir, Y. 1989. *Boraginaceae*. In: Flora of Pakistan, (Eds.) S.I. Ali & Y. Nasir, 191: 150-157.

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