

Synopsis of the species.

PRENANTHES L.

Prenanthes subpeltata Stebbins, sp. nov. (Plate VI, fig. a-h; Plate VII, fig. c, d).

Herba scandens, caulis 1.5-3 mm. crassus; folia caulinea subpeltata, ad apicem attenuata, remote denticulata, superne glabra infra ad rhachidem et venas sparse pubescentia vel glabra; petioli flexuosi, 2-4 cm. longi, ad basim auriculati. *Inflorescentia* paniculata, nutans, ramis flexuosis; capitula ad anthesin 11-13 mm., ad maturitatem 13-14 mm. longa; phylla interiora 5, lanceolato-elliptica, obtusa vel acuta; phylla exteriora gradatim breviora, imbricata, extima deltoidea; floscula 5; corollae (ex note collectoris) roseae, 18-19 mm. longae; rami stigmatis 2.6 mm. longi. *Achaenia* 4.5-5 mm. longa, lutescentia vel pallide brunnea, cylindrica, apice in discum pappiferum expansa, nec attenuata vel contracta, ca. 12 costata, costis laevis, obtusis, inaequalibus; pappi setae 12 mm. longae, rigidae; lacteae sed ad basim lutescentes.

Climbing 4-6 m. high; stem rather stiff, glabrous, striate, 1.5-3 mm. thick; cauline leaves ovate, 4-7.5 cm. long and 2.5-4 cm. broad, subpeltate, the insertion of the petiole about 1 cm. above the lower end of the leaf, attenuate to the acute apex, remotely denticulate, glabrous or sparsely and minutely pubescent along the midrib and veins below. *Inflorescence* a nodding panicle, the lower nodes subtended by leaves similar to the cauline, except that the uppermost are merely cordate at the base; the upper nodes bearing deltoid, acute bracts; involucre at anthesis 11-13 mm., at maturity 13-14 mm. long; inner bracts 5, lanceolate-elliptic 2.5-3 mm. broad, obtuse or acute at the apex, the outer gradually shorter, imbricate, the outermost deltoid; florets 5 per capitulum; corollas pink, 18-19 mm. long, the tube glabrous, about equal to the ligule; anther tube (including the appendages) 5 mm. long; style branches 2.6 mm. long, 0.15 mm. thick. *Achenes* 3.5-5 mm. long, yellowish brown, cylindric-prismatic, expanded at the apex into the pappus disc but not at all attenuate or contracted, about 12-costate, the ribs unequal, smooth, blunt and rounded; pappus setae 12 mm. long, coarse and stiff, creamy white above, yellowish below.

BELGIAN CONGO: Virunga Mountains, volcano Karisimbi, Park of *Hagenia*, alt. about 2520 m., *Lebrun* 4959 (Type, Br.); volcano Mikenö, alt. about 2600 m., *Humbert* 8027 (Br.).

Observations. — 1. — This species, though related in habitat and floral characteristics to *P. scandens* Hook f. (Plate VII, fig. a et b) is very distinctive in a number of respects. The subpeltate leaves are unique in the Cichorieae, though they are similar in outline to those of *P. scandens*. The imbricate involueral bracts are very unusual in *Prenanthes*, but are similar to those of the scandent *P. yakoensis* J. F. Jeffr. of southwestern China, which *P. subpeltata* resembles in floral characteristics more nearly than it does *P. scandens*. The achenes of *P. subpeltata* are more typical of *Prenanthes* than are those of the scandent species of Asia, since they are not at all contracted at the apex, while the pappus is of stiff, coarse bristles, quite typical of the genus, and contrasting strongly with the fine, fragile bristles of *Lactuca glandulifera* and its relatives. In addition, two remarkable microscopic features of *P. subpeltata* may be noted. The style is nearly or quite devoid of the long barbs or « collecting hairs », so conspicuous below the base of the stigmatic branches of typical species of *Prenanthes*, *Lactuca*, and most other genera of the Cichorieae, (cf. Plate VII) while the pollen grains are subechinolophate (Plate VI, fig. e) in contrast to the echinolophate condition in other species of *Prenanthes* and most of the Cichorieae (Wodehouse 1935, pp. 457-470). These features suggest that *P. subpeltata* is a relatively primitive species of its genus, which is itself one of the more primitive genera of the tribe, and that this species has been isolated for a very long period of time, perhaps forming the last relic of what was once a well developed section of the genus.

2. — The habitat of *P. subpeltata* is most interesting in this connection. The two stations are on neighboring volcanoes, and both are within the forest of *Hagenia abyssinica*, a formation which, according to Dr. W. Robyns, is found only on these two peaks, although scattered stands of *Hagenia* occur on the other mountains of central Africa and throughout east central Africa at suitable altitudes. Apparently the restriction of the range of the *Prenanthes* is governed by that of this unique formation. The relic character of the former suggests that the *Hagenia* forests also are a relic of their former occurrence.



