

RUBUS WATSONII SP. NOV.

By W. H. MILLS.

This hitherto undescribed British bramble, in some respects related to *R. rubristylus* W. Wats. (*R. Newbouldii* Rog., non Bab.) and *R. granulatus* Muell. & Lef. (*R. oigocladus* var. *Bloxamianus* Rog.), occurs over a considerable area of the south-east Midlands. I have long known it in various Huntingdonshire (v.-c. 31) localities (Bevill's Wood, Monks' Wood and West Perry) and have found it also in Hertfordshire (v.-c. 20) (Mardley Heath) and in Buckinghamshire (v.-c. 24) (Great Brickhill) and Mr W. C. R. Watson and Dr J. G. Dony have found it in several places in south Bedfordshire (v.-c. 30) where I have also seen it.

Rubus Watsonii belongs to the Section *Apiculati*, Series *Foliosi*, in Watson's classification (1946, *J. Ecol.*, 33, 337) and to the Group *Sub-Koehleriani* in that of Rogers. It has the following characters:—

Stem beginning with a long low arch, faces plane or somewhat furrowed, dark green overlaid with purplish-brown on the exposed side, pilose. Main prickles sub-equal, chiefly on the angles but irregularly spaced, with compressed purplish-red bases and slender yellowish points, declining or slightly falcate. Intermediate prickles few. Pricklets and stalked glands crowded, the latter dark red and mostly about 0.7 to 1.0 mm. long.

Leaves 3-nate and 4- and 5-nate pedate, more commonly 3-nate; dark green and strigose above, paler and pilose on the veins beneath; later leaves tending to be felted beneath. Leaflets more or less arched between the nerves. Serration shallow, wide and irregular, the teeth many obtusangular, tipped with distinct mucros. Terminal leaflet broadly rhomboidal-obovate with short broad-based point and emarginate frequently rather truncate base, three to four times as long as its petiolule. Petiole obscurely furrowed above, pilose, with crowded dark red stalked glands and mostly falcate declining prickles. Stipules narrowly linear, pilose and glandular.

Flowering branch angular, pilose, with crowded stalked glands and gland-tipped acicles and with unequal falcate and declining prickles. Leaves ternate, the terminal leaflet considerably contracted at the base, sometimes almost cuneate in the upper leaves. Under surface of the uppermost leaves softly pubescent, with prominent veins and usually some greyish-green felt. In well developed panicles the ternate floral leaves are usually followed by an ovate simple leaf and then by one or two lanceolate leaves.

Lower part of panicle consisting of erect-patent many-flowered branches in the axils of the three or four uppermost leaves, with not infrequently an additional 1- or 2-flowered branch in an upper axil. Ultra-axillary part of the panicle dense and sub-cylindrical with gently

ascending cymose branches. Rhachis in its upper part, panicle branches, and pedicels clothed with long dense greyish villous hair burying the closely set red stalked glands, and armed with very numerous nearly straight and patent slender prickles, purplish-red at the base, averaging about 2.5 mm. in length. Lower part of the rhachis armed with stronger falcate and declining prickles.

Flowers about 2.5 cm. in diameter. Sepals externally grey with a pale margin, felted and pilose, glandular and sparingly aculeolate, sub-patent after the fall of the petals, afterwards very loosely reflexed. Petals white or white faintly tinged with pink, narrowly elliptical. Stamens only slightly exceeding the reddish based styles. Carpels glabrous. Fruit ellipsoid.

Rubus Watsonii sp. nov.

Turio angulatus, faciebus planis vel leviter excavatis, pilosus, glandulis aculeolisque crebris obsitus; *aculei* majores subaequales, plerumque ad angulos dispositi, compressi, reclinati; minores sparsi; *folia* ternata vel rarius pedato-quinata, supra parce pilosa, subtus viridia, praecipue ad nervos pubescentia, sat grosse inaequaliter et parum profunde serrata; *foliolum terminale* late rhombeo-ovatum, breviter acuminatum, basi emarginatum, petiolulo proprio triplo vel quadruplo longius; *stipulae* lineares, glandulosae.

Ramus florifer angulatus, pilosus, glandulis crebris aculeisque inaequalibus obsitus; *folia* ternata, superiorum foliola terminalia rhombea vel cuneata; *inflorescentia* basi interrupta, foliosa, superne densa, ad apicem rotundata; rhachis apicem versus, ramuli pedicellique dense hirsuti et glandulosi, aculeis rectis purpureis crebris armati; *sepala* cinereo-tomentosa hirsuta glandulosa aculeolata, in fructu sub-patula; *petala* anguste elliptica, alba vel dilute rosea; *stamina* stylos vix superantia; *germina* glabra; *fructus* ellipsoideus.

Type (from Bevill's Wood, Hunts., July 1946, W. H. Mills) in the Cambridge University Herbarium.

Rubus Watsonii is of moderately vigorous growth and is easily recognisable by its deep green more or less plicate broadly rhomboidal-obovate terminal leaflet and conspicuously prickly villous panicle which sharply distinguishes it from *R. rubristylus* and *R. granulatus*. *R. rubristylus* is further differentiated by its strongly grooved stem, its crisped leaf-margins, the longer stalk of its terminal leaflet and its bright red styles. *R. granulatus* has the additional distinction of a glabrescent stem with much shorter, more crowded and yellowish-brown stalked glands.

The name *Rubus Watsonii* is given in recognition of the contributions of Mr W. C. R. Watson to our knowledge of the British *Rubi*.