

RUBUS CORYLIFOLIUS var. PURPUREUS Bab.

By W. C. R. WATSON.

There is a bramble widely distributed in England that agrees well with Babington's (1869) description under the above name. I have studied it in the field in Middlesex (Finchley Common), West Kent (Whitehorse Wood, Luddesdown) and S. Wilts. (Southleigh Wood).

After his description Babington quotes *R. Wahlbergii* Arrh. and *R. thamnocharis* Müll. as synonyms, but these do not really agree with his plant. His herbarium also contains specimens sent by correspondents which are labelled *R. corylifolius* var. *purpureus* or *R. fasciculatus* P. J. Muell., some of which are *R. conjungens* and other species.

Babington later adopted the name *R. fasciculatus* P. J. Muell. in the belief that it fitted his own plant. "*R. fasciculatus*" was then taken up by Rogers (1893; 1900; 1908), Riddelsdell (1925) and Druce (1928). As I stated (1928, 170) this identification is erroneous, and I have used Babington's earlier name *R. corylifolius* var. *purpureus* for the plant.

Rogers (1900, 95) says: "I know very little of this as a living plant," and then gives a description based on specimens collected by Bagnall, which were issued in Set of British Rubi, No. 50. He states that the plant seems too glandular and aciculate for close alliance with *R. corylifolius*. In Babington's herbarium there is a manuscript note by Rogers, dated 1911, in which he states that Babington's plant is certainly distinct from the form described in the *Handbook*, and adds that the specimens furnished by Bagnall had been confirmed by Babington. Rogers' (1900) description in the *Handbook* and the "Set" specimens are of the bramble that Babington (1869, 274) describes under the name "*R. althaeifolius* Host," and that stands as *R. Babingtonianus* W. Wats. in Watson (1946). I have been acquainted with this bramble for many years, both in stations close at hand in W. Kent and Surrey, and further afield in Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and Yorkshire; I have received it also from the Hebrides and Ireland. The specimens in Babington's herbarium are mixed, but his descriptions (1869, 274-6; 1881, 109) well define the plant intended, and must, I judge, have been composed from the living plant.

The case is similar with *R. corylifolius* var. *purpureus*. Rogers says, in Herb. Babington, "I do not understand Babington's *R. fasciculatus* (*R. corylifolius* var. *purpureus* Bab. prius) . . . Babington's herbarium specimens (nos. 391, 398, 400, 401, etc.) seem almost without exception to be of hybrid origin—apparently *R. corylifolius* × *rusticanus*."

Objection cannot well be taken to any suggestion of this or that Corylifolian being of hybrid origin, since there is no doubt that they

all derive from crosses between *R. caesius* and a Morifer—with one possible exception where *R. idaeus* and not *R. caesius* may be concerned—but one would not agree that this disposes straightaway of any claim they may have to a separate name as a species; and the suggested origin from two eglandular species hardly seems probable for a bramble with a slightly glandular and aciculate stem and a more decidedly glandular and aciculate panicle.

A sufficient field knowledge of the brambles concerned brought to the study of Babington's full and accurate descriptions—not to the specimens in his herbarium which are probably incomplete in number—should lead to the recognition that both are good species.

Rubus purpureicaulis sp. nov. Syn.: *R. corylifolius* var. *purpureus* Bab., 1869, *British Rubi*, 267-268. Exclude synonyms.

- BABINGTON, C. C., 1869, *The British Rubi*, 267-268, 274-279.
 —, 1881, *Manual of British Botany*, Ed. 8, 109 [reprinted in later editions].
 DRUCE, G. C., 1928, *British Plant List*, Ed. 2, 35.
 RIDDELSDELL, H. J., 1925, *Rubus*, in HANBURY, F. J., *London Catalogue of British Plants*, Ed. 11, 16.
 ROGERS, W. M., 1893, An Essay at a Key to British Rubi, *J. Bot.*, **31**, 41.
 —, 1900, *Handbook of British Rubi*, 95.
 —, 1908, *Rubus*, in HANBURY, F. J., *London Catalogue of British Plants*, Ed. 10, 15.
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 —, 1946, *Rubus*, in CLAPHAM, A. R., Check List of British Vascular Plants, *J. Ecol.*, **33**, 337-344.