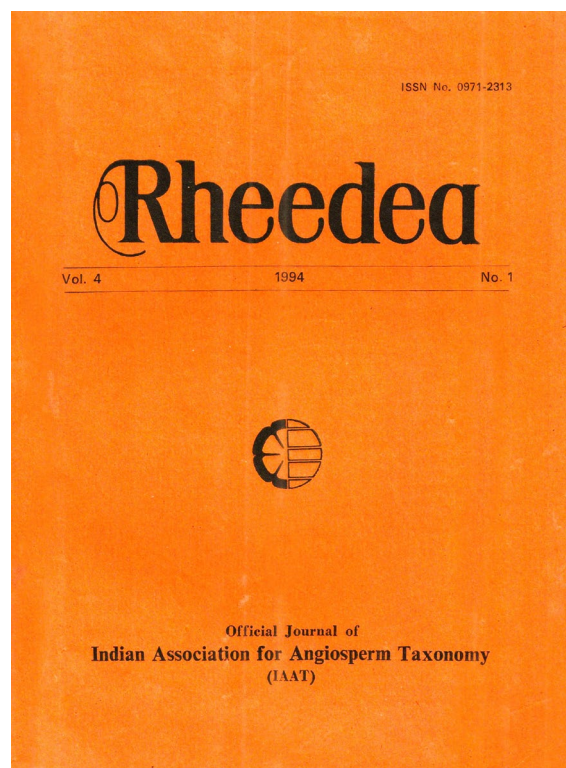




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**A new species of *Valeriana* L. (Valerianaceae)
from Himachal Pradesh, India***

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Abstract

A new species of *Valeriana* L. viz. *V. himachalensis* is described with illustrations. This is allied to *V. roylei* Klotz. ex Garcke. The distinguishing characters are tabulated.

During the course of taxonomic studies on Indian Valerianaceae, one of us (VP) examined two interesting specimens in the herbarium of Botanical Survey of India at Dehradun (BSD) which were collected from Thali forest of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh, in 1974. Detailed critical study and opinion received from Kew herbarium, confirmed them to be a new species of the genus *Valeriana* L. It is described here with illustrations under the name *V. himachalensis*.

***Valeriana himachalensis* Ved Prakash & Mehrotra, sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1)

V. roylei Klotz. ex Garcke affinis, sed differt caulibus solitariis cum foliis caulinis majoribus, foliorum caulinarum duobus paribus inferioribus longe petiolatis, paribusque superioribus sessilibus.

Plantae in *V. roylei* Klotz. ex Garcke caespitose, folia caulina parviora cum petiolis brevibus in paribus pluribus, paribus supremis exceptis.

Typus: India, Himachal Pradesh, Thali Forest, 2200 m, June 19, 1974, *B. M. Wadhwa* 53071 (Holotype and Isotype, BSD).

This species is allied to *V. roylei* Klotz. ex Garcke but differs in having solitary stem, with larger cauline leaves which are long-petioled in lower two

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Table 1.

<i>V. himachalensis</i>		<i>V. roylei</i>
Stem	Solitary	Tufted
Lower pairs of cauline leaves	2.5–5 × 2–2.6 cm, ovate-orbicular with 2–5 cm long petiole	1–2.5 × 0.5–1.5 cm ovate-cordate with 0.5–3 cm long petiole
Upper pairs of cauline leaves	sessile	petioled except uppermost ones.
Achene	glabrous	tomentose

pairs and sessile in upper pairs, while in *V. roylei*, plants are tufted and cauline leaves are shortly petioled in several pairs except uppermost ones. The distinguishing characters are shown in Table 1.

Perennial, pubescent herb, ± 35 cm tall. Stem solitary with woody rootstock and few, slender root fibres. Leaves simple, radical ones with 1.5–2 cm long petiole, pyrrolaeform-orbulate, ± 1.6 cm across, margins entire, cauline ones opposite, distantly placed, lower 2 pairs with 3–5 cm long; petiole, ovate-orbulate, 2.5–5 × 2–2.6 cm, margins entire or slightly sinuate; upper pair (3rd one from base) sessile, ovate, equal to or slightly larger than lower ones, margins denticulate; upper most pair small, linear. Inflorescence lax, dichotomously branched spike, ± 4 cm long. Upper bracts ± 2.5–3 mm long, oblong, glabrous. Flowers white, small. Calyx tube ± 1.0–1.2 mm long with obscure limb. Corolla tube funnel-shaped, ± 2.0 mm long, 5 lobed. Stamens 3, included, anthers ± 0.4 mm long, 2 lobed. Pistil with exserted style and simple stigma. Achene ± 2.5 mm long, glabrous, equal to or slightly shorter than supporting bract.

Note: The present study also reveals that the type specimen of *Valeriana roylei* Klotz. ex Garcke which was collected by W. Hoffmeister (*s. n.*) from Himalayas around 1845, does not exist. It was lost in Berlin Herbarium during World War in 1943 (Pers. Comm.). Hence, the original illustration of *V. roylei* published by Garcke (in Bot. Erg. Reisc. Pr. Waldem. 83, t. 85, 1862) is designated here as the neotype. The authors have identified some specimens of this species in BSD (U. P., Pithoragarh Dt., Kalamuni Pass, 3000 m, April 30, 1966, *N. C. Nair* 36277).

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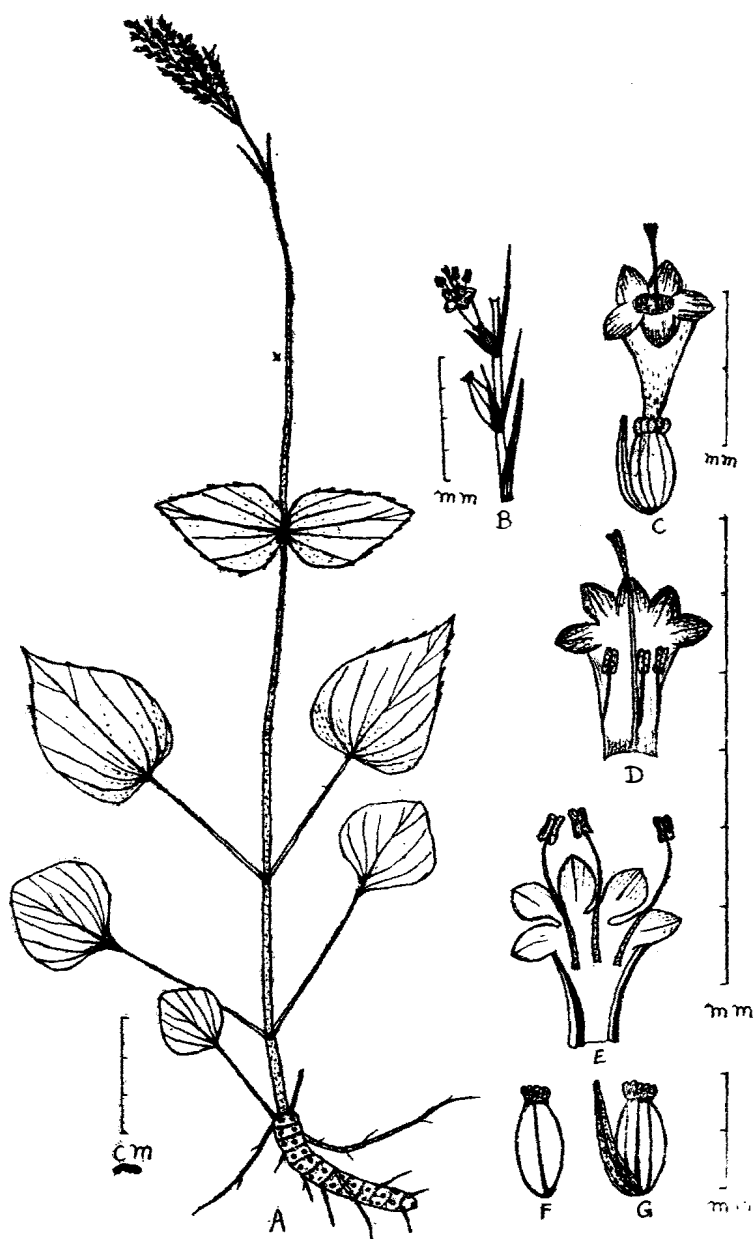


Fig. 1. *Valeriana himachalensis*: A. Habit; B. Flowering twig; C. Flower with bract; D-E. L. S. of Flower; F. Achene; G. Achene with bract.

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Howrah, for latin diagnosis and to Dr. V. J. Nair, Indian Liaison Officer, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for confirming the identity. We thank the Officer-In-Charge of BSD for permission to study the specimens. The authors are also thankful to Dr. B. Leuenberger of Berlin Herbarium, Dr. B. Hansen, Copenhagen and Dr. H. Usinger, Germany, for their help in searching out the type specimen of *V. roylei*.