

A New Staffordshire Bramble.

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Since 1942 we have been giving some attention to a bramble allied to *Rubus infestus* Weihe, common, especially in wood borders, over a considerable area about Whitmore and Madeley in the north-west of Staffordshire, with a view to naming and describing it. Recently it has come to our knowledge that Mr H. W. Daltry of Madeley has *been familiar* with the plant for some thirty years and through his kindness we have been able to study a gathering which in 1916 he submitted to Rev. H. J. Riddelsdell.

The latter's suggestion was "*Rubus hystrix* f. *umbrosa*. Panicle weakly armed with strongly ascending branches and very long pedicels." But evidently not satisfied with this determination Riddelsdell sent the gathering to Rev. W. Moyle Rogers who commented:—"I believe undoubtedly a form or state of *Rubus infestus* with fewer curved prickles than usual. A reference to my *Journ. Bot.*, 1912, paper, p. 311 (on *R. glareosus*) will show conclusively why I put this form away from *B. hystrix*. It is quite Egreian as I understand that group, going characteristically with my Sub-group 2 (*Hbk. Br. Rubi*, p. 13). These pieces look shade grown. I have *infestus* from Staffs, not from North England."

This determination was in keeping with Rogers', probably wise, conservatism in dealing with new plants, but, close ally of *B. infestus* as it evidently is, the plant is by current standards quite distinct. From our usual *infestus* it differs in the stem prickles being mostly straight and nearly patent, while from both it and its variety *virgultorum* it differs essentially in the glabrous or nearly glabrous undersides of all leaflets both on stem and panicle, the absence of any but the slightest trace of felt on the panicle (except, of course, on the sepals), the star-like flowers with long narrow petals and the long stamens far exceeding the styles. In appearance it resembles some of the forms which have been put under *B. hystrix*, but the armature is less uneven and the stalked glands are mostly short, those on the panicle often very short.

In describing it as a new species we associate with it the name of the original discoverer.

Rubus Daltrii sp. nov.

Turio angulatus, canaliculatus, glaber vel subglaber, aculeolis et glandulis stipitatis paucis vel numerosis instructus. Aculei plerumque recti, ad angulos dispositi. Folia quinata, digitata vel pedata; foliola inaequaliter mucronato-serrata, utrinque viridia, glabra vel subglabra; foliolium terminale ellipticum, emarginatum vel cordatum, breviter acuminatum. Ramus florifer parce pilosus, glandulis sat brevibus sparsis vel numerosis et aculeis falcatis munitus. Inflorescentia cylindrica vel pyramidalis, lata, pauciflora vel multiflora; pedunculi elongati, pedicellis tenuibus via tomentosus; pedunculi medii saepe patuli vel divaricati. Flores spectabiles. Sepala tomentoso-cinerea, glandulosa, in fructu patula. Petala alba, longa, anguste elliptica. Stamina alba stylos longe superantia.

Stem usually sharply angled with flat striate faces, glabrous or nearly so, greenish or brownish green. Large prickles mostly straight and patent or more or less declining, sometimes slightly curved, mostly with slender point from a long compressed base, generally straw-coloured and contrasting with the dull green of the stem, mostly on the angles. Intermediate prickles, pricklets, and stalked glands rather numerous or few; dark sessile glands often abundant on the faces of the stem.

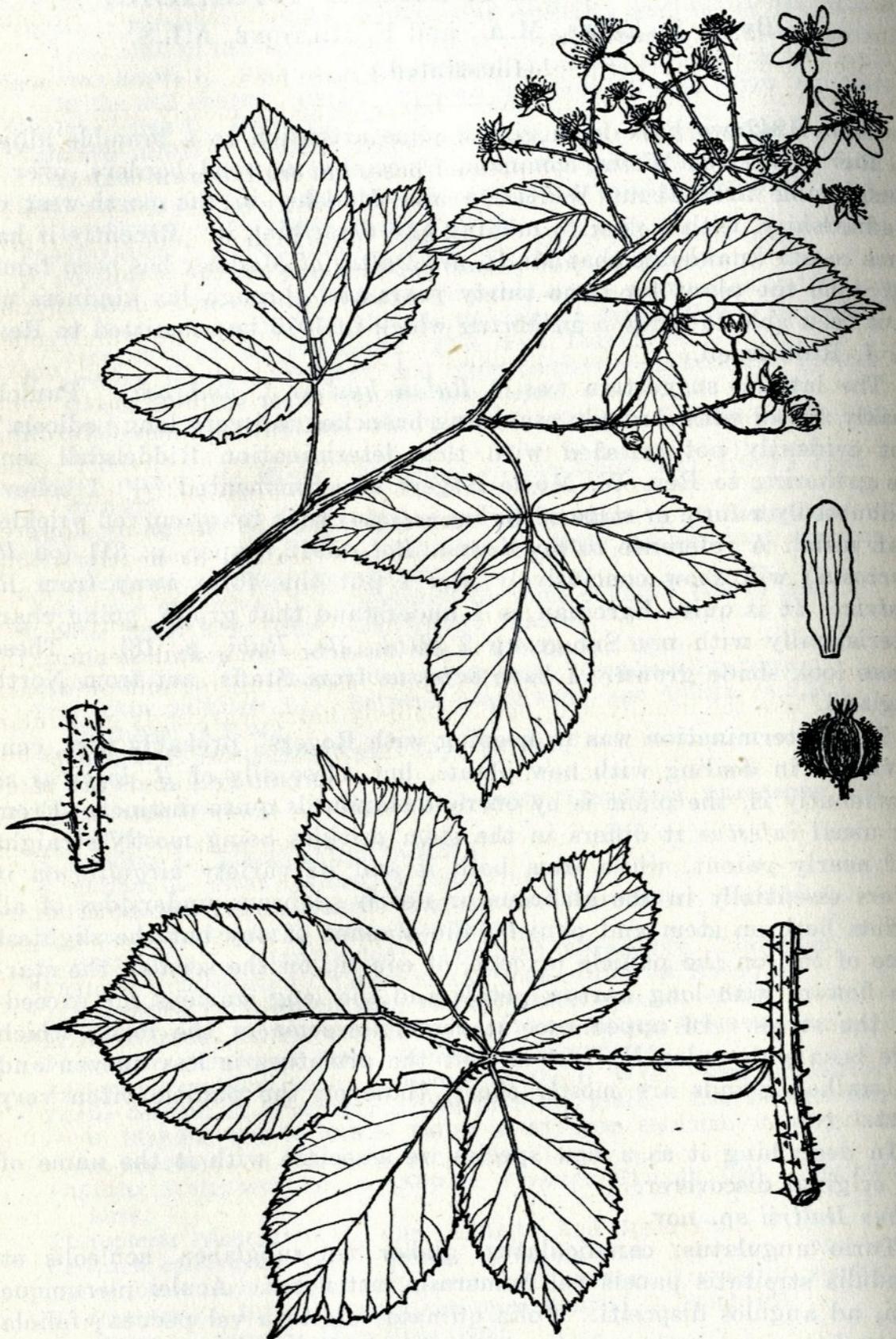
Stem leaves of moderate size, 5-nate digitate or pedate, petiole usually long, slightly to considerably glandular, fairly hairy and generally with numerous hooked prickles. Leaflets rather thin and nearly glabrous on both surfaces with the somewhat irregular, partly compound, mucronate tothing either coarse or rather fine. Terminal leaflet generally elliptical with cordate or emarginate base, short rather abruptly acuminate point, and stalk about two-fifths of its length.

Panicle broadly cylindrical or pyramidal, lax, few or many flowered and with the primordial flower often shortly stalked or nearly sessile. Rachis angled or rounded, thinly hairy, with stalked glands few or many and mostly shorter than the hair, curved prickles fairly many or few and acicles very few or none. Panicle branches long and slender, the lower often strongly ascending, the upper ascending, patent or divaricate, and like the usually long pedicels thinly hairy, varyingly glandular, and more or less abundantly furnished with slender curved prickles but usually with few or no acicles and no felt. The panicle glands are often very short. Panicle leaves nearly glabrous, the lower 3-nate with the terminal leaflet somewhat cuneate and the upper part of the panicle with one or more simple leaves.

Sepals patent in fruit, blackish-grey felted and hairy with white border, few or many stalked glands but only an occasional acicle, and point short or rather long. Flowers star-like with narrowly elliptic white petals and long white stamens far exceeding the styles.

Exsiccata in Herb. Eedes, Ref. nos. 2306, 2321, 2327, 3901, 3902 (typus), 3903-7.

It will be evident from the description that the range of variation in quantity of prickles and stalked glands and in size of leaf tothing is considerable and the panicle varies from a few-flowered raceme to a highly floriferous pyramid.



RUBUS DALTRII Edees & Rilst., with enlarged drawings of bud, petal and portion of pedicel.