

ANOTHER BRITISH RHINANTHUS WITH PUBESCENT CALYX

By A. J. WILMOTT.

During the recent excursion to Glens Affric and Cannich, a slender *Rhinanthus* collected by Miss Vachell near Loch Mullardoch, Easterness (v.-c. 96), quite low down, which had the habit and narrow leaves of the *Rhinanthus* common near Affric Lodge—somewhat intermediate between *R. stenophyllus* (Schur) Druce and *R. spadiceus* Wilmott (see *B.E.C. 1939/40 Rep.*, 361-379), proved to have the surface of the calyx hairy all over. It does not agree entirely with either the Clova *R. Lintoni* Wilmott or the Ben Nevis *R. lochabrensis* Wilmott, and, therefore, although its relationships are at present somewhat obscure, it must be given a new name.

Like *R. Lintoni*, it has the lower internodes short, but what branches there are are weak; but they occur in the lower part of the region of such elongated internodes. The lowest leaves—6-8 pairs in the lowest 20-25 mm. of stem—have fallen in the three specimens available for description. The weak branches are short and only show the initial stage of bud development. The leaves in mid-stem and below are arrect (i.e., perpendicular to the stem) or spreading; the intercalary leaves (one pair) ascending; the lowest bracts wide spreading, the remainder somewhat more spreading than in *R. Lintoni*. The stem leaves are very narrow (only 1-2 mm. broad) except for the slightly broadened base with more spreading and longer teeth. The leaves are finely pubescent above and below, but lack the longer pubescence on the midrib beneath which is found in *R. Lintoni*. The leaf teeth are appressed, the terminal one acute or bluntish, but not rounded as in *R. Lintoni*. The inflorescence is lax and few-flowered. The lowest bracts are like the leaves, the upper with broader sharp- and spreading-toothed base, the lowest teeth longer, narrower and acute or aristate: the distal part of the bract is narrow like the leaves, and much exceeds the flowers. The calyx is at first considerably longer than broad, with triangular teeth as long as or longer than broad, narrower than in *R. Lintoni*: it is finely appressed-pubescent all over. The corolla is slightly smaller than in *R. Lintoni* (and quite different from the large and peculiar-shaped corolla of *R. lochabrensis*), and is much more pubescent; the corolla tooth is prominent, violet, almost as long as broad (if the tapering part is excluded). The capsule is not yet developed, but it will probably be small, as in *R. spadiceus*.

Indeed, the plant looks extremely like some of the plants collected near Affric Lodge, which had glabrous calyces. Whether or not it may be conspecific with these, and the hairy calyx may be a variable character in some species of *Rhinanthus*, or whether it is really a dis-

tinct species, must await further material. Meanwhile, however, it needs a name, and is named after its observer as:—

Rhinanthus Vachellae mihi; *R. Lintoni* similis sed habitu (inter *R. spadiceum* et *R. stenophyllum* intermedio), foliis angustioribus, minus pubescentibus, internodiis superioribus elongatis, corolla magis pubescente cum dente prominente, aliis notis differt. Holotypus in *Herb. Mus. Brit.*