Note on *Rhododendron macrostemon*, Maxim.

Nom. Jap.—*Misome-kirishima*.

By

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Maximowicz's description of *Rhododendron macrostemon*⁽¹⁾ runs as follows:—"Humile, squarrose denseque *dichotome ramosum*, parce foliatum et microphyllum, *ramulis glabratis*; foliis apice ramulorum confertis anguste ellipticis, utrinque acutis apiceque apiculatis, breviter petiolatis, *utrinque, subtus ad venas adpresse fusco-strigoso-pilosis* subtusque glaucis reticulatis; floribus terminalibus 1—2, *pedunculum cum calyce dense patule rufo-villoso-strigosum* triplo superantibus;" But it seems to me that above characters are not constant. For in many plants of this species which I examined, the branches are generally whorled and the branchlets are, when young, densely hispid with white silvery hairs, which become afterwards reddish and ultimately dark-colored; and very old branchlets are often glabrate. The peduncle and calyx are in most plants strigose with silvery white hairs, and in some with red hairs. The color of the corolla of early flowers is always carnose, and that of late flowers only is "viridulo-venosis" to use Maximowicz's words.

I am inclined to think that this species may be a variety of *Rh. indicum* or its hybrid form. The chief difference between this species and *Rh. indicum* seems to be as follows:—the former has a few hairs on the back and margins of the corolla, and its stamens greatly exceed the corolla; while the latter has no hairs on the corolla, and its stamens do not generally exceed

(1) *Rhododendreae Asiae Orientalis*, p.39—40.

the corolla. But in a variety of *Rh. indicum* called "Shirasaki" the stamens are long and much exceed the corolla; and often among flowers of *Rh. indicum*, Sweet. var. *obtusum*, Maxim., there are those with stamens more or less exserting from the corolla. Thus, if my views are correct, the chief distinction between *Rh. macrostemon* and *Rh. indicum* lies in the fact that in one the corolla is hairy and in the other it is smooth. I may add here that *Rh. macrostemon* is never found wild but always in cultivation.

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東都ノ花戸往々之レヲ栽ユ未タ其自生ノ地ヲ不詳高サ約一二尺枝狹細ニノ粗毛アリ通常輪生ス始メ小硬毛密生スト雖モ老枝ニ在リテハ殆ト無毛ナリ最嫩枝ハ其毛銀色ヲ呈スレモ老スルニ及ビテ赤色終ニ暗色トナルナリ葉ハ枝頂ニアリテ橢圓兩端狹細兩面皆有毛毛ハ始白後褐色トナル中肋ノ左右ニ各三四ノ脈ヲ存ス葉柄極テ短小ニシテ毛深シ花ハ枝端ニ在リ一花若クハ三花ヲ着ク萼小ニシテ細毛密生シ且邊緣ニ長毛アリ萼片圓狀倒卵ナルアリ長橢圓ナルアリ花冠鐘狀ヲナシ花徑約二半仙、迷、全軀深紅肉色ナルヲ早季トシ晩花ハ淺紅色ニシテ背ニ綠條アリ花ノ中央以上ハ五裂シ五瓣ヲ成ス瓣長橢圓銳頭背及ビ緣邊ニ細毛粗生ス下瓣ハ他ヨリ長シ雌蕊五個短長アリ共ニ遙ニ花外ニ抽出ス葯ハ褐黃色花絲紅ナリ花柱ハ花冠ニ倍長シ最長ノ雄蕊ヨリモ漸起過ス柱頭廣張シ微ニ五裂ヲナス子房ニ密毛アリ

花時ハ四月下旬ヨリ五月中旬ニ至ル

附言萼花冠雄蕊共ニ宿存ス