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RESEARCH PAPER

Two new species of *Henckelia* (Gesneriaceae) from the Eastern Himalayan state Arunachal Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Two new species of *Henckelia* from the Eastern Himalayan state Arunachal Pradesh, India, are described and illustrated. The first, *Henckelia dasii* Taram, D.Borah, R.Kr.Singh & Tag is allied to *H. umbellata* Kanthraj & K.N.Nair, the second, *H. lallanii* Taram, D.Borah, Tag & R.Kr.Singh is close to *H. urticifolia* (Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don) A.Dietr. (type species of the former *Chirita* sect. *Chirita*). The differences are given in Table 1 and 2, respectively. A key is presented for the 21 *Henckelia* species presently known from N and NE India.

KEYWORDS

Kurung Kumey district, Lower Subansiri district, new species, northeast India

1 | INTRODUCTION

The genus *Henckelia* Spreng. (Gesneriaceae), in the sense of Weber et al. (2011), presently includes about 73 species, distributed from China and N India to S India and Sri Lanka and from W India to Vietnam. In India, it is represented by 37 species, of which 21 species occur in western, eastern Himalaya and northeast India, and 16 species in the Western Ghats.

During the authors' work on the floristic diversity of the Eastern Himalayan state Arunachal Pradesh, India, specimens of two *Henckelia* species were collected in the Lower Subansiri and Kurung Kumey districts (Figure 1), that proved new on closer inspection. They are formally described here as new species.

2 | MATERIAL AND METHODS

Specimens of the two new species of *Henckelia* were collected during plant collection trips to Arunachal Pradesh from 2017 to 2019. Type specimens were deposited at ARUN and ASSAM. For comparison, material was studied from ARUN, ASSAM, BM, CAL, E, G, K, L, MH, P and PE. The number of mature individuals

found in the type locality was recorded for both species for assessment of the conservation status.

3 | TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

1. *Henckelia dasii* Taram, D.Borah, R.Kr.Singh & Tag, *sp. nov.* (Figure 2)

Type: India, Arunachal Pradesh, Lower Subansiri district, Ziro Valley, 27° 29' 04.7" N 93° 49' 47.5" E, 1950 m, 22 August 2018, *M. Taram 31878* (holotype ASSAM; isotypes ARUN).

Diagnosis: The species is different from all other species of *Henckelia* by its urceolate calyx, with the lobes fused up to more than 3/4 of its length and small calyx lobes. It is superficially similar to *H. umbellata* Kanthraj & K.N.Nair (Figure 3) in having large, broadly ovate bracts enclosing the flower buds and pedicels, but can be easily distinguished by the eglandular leaves, shorter peduncles, shorter pedicels, smaller urceolate calyx, fused up to more than 3/4 of its length, corolla smaller, white with light pinkish tinge, glabrous, eglandular, stamens glabrous, eglandular, shorter, staminodes shorter, glabrous, ovary smaller, style eglandular, disc annular, shorter. For details see Table 1.