



## A new species of *Neillia* (Rosaceae) from Bhutan and eastern Nepal

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### Abstract

A new species of *Neillia* from eastern Nepal is described and illustrated. *Neillia velutina* Pendry is most similar to *Neillia rubiflora* D. Don, but differs in the dense, villous indumentum on its twigs, leaves, inflorescences and ovary versus a glabrous ovary and glabrous to sparsely appressed-pubescent twigs, leaves and inflorescences in the latter. A revised key to the species in Nepal and Bhutan is presented.

### Introduction

*Neillia* D. Don (Rosaceae, subfamily Spiraeoideae) is a genus of about 20 species of shrubs and subshrubs from the Himalayas, East Asia and Southeast Asia. The genus was created by Don (1825) in his *Prodromus Florae Nepalensis*, in which he described the two species of *Neillia* currently known from Nepal, *N. thyrsoiflora* (Don 1825: 228) and *N. rubiflora* (Don 1825: 229). These species are also found in China (Ku and Alexander 2003) which is *Neillia*'s centre of diversity with 17 species (including two species formerly in *Stephanandra*, Oh 2006), 13 of which are endemic.

In the course of revising the genus for the Flora of Nepal four specimens from Bhutan and eastern Nepal were found to be distinct from the other members of the genus because of the combination of their densely villous ovaries and the dense indumentum on their leaves, twigs and inflorescences. They are described here as a new species, *Neillia velutina* Pendry.

### *Neillia velutina* Pendry, sp. nov.

*Neilliae rubiflorae* D. Don affinis sed ovariiis, ramulis, petiolis, foliis, inflorescentiisque dense villosis differt.

**Type:**—Nepal: Taplejung: Thasa Kharka - Jongim - Ramsyang Pati - Suketar - Lungthung, 27° 42' N, 87° 50' E, 2000 m, 2 June 1992, M. Suzuki, N. Acharya, S. Akiyama, H. Koba, S. Noshiro. & K.R. Rajbhandari 9240479 (Holotype E!, isotype TI!).

Shrub to 2 m. Indumentum villous with erect to semi-erect, free or rather matted, unbranched trichomes to 0.6–0.8 mm. Twigs villous, with matted, semi-erect trichomes. Stipules narrowly ovate to elliptic, 4–7 x 1.5–2 mm, margin entire or rarely obscurely toothed, sparsely villous, persistent. Petioles 6–10 mm, densely villous, with matted, semi-erect trichomes. Leaves ovate, entire or shallowly 3-lobed, 2.5–7 x 1.5–4.5 cm, base cordate, apex acute to acuminate, margin doubly serrate, sparsely, rather appressed villous adaxially, more densely villous abaxially, with erect trichomes on the lamina and matted trichomes on the veins, secondary veins in 5–6 pairs. Inflorescence a terminal raceme, usually simple or occasionally with up to 5 short lateral branches at the base, 1.5–4 cm long overall, peduncle densely villous. Bracts ovate-acuminate, 3–4 x 1–1.5