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A NEW SPECIES OF *PENSTEMON* (SCROPHULARIACEAE)
FROM THE UINTA BASIN, UTAH

Elizabeth Neese¹ and Stanley L. Welsh¹

ABSTRACT.— Described as a new species is *Penstemon flowersii* Neese & Welsh from Utah. An illustration is provided. The species is named in honor of the late Seville Flowers, professor of botany at the University of Utah.

The genus *Penstemon* is large and complex within the state of Utah. The flowers of plants of this genus are among the most beautiful within the state. Several taxa have been described as new from the intermountain region during recent years. It is not surprising that another such novelty should occur in the region. The species was discovered during investigations of the rare plants in the Uinta Basin, a region noted for its narrowly distributed endemics.

Penstemon flowersii Neese & Welsh, sp. nov.

Species haec ab *P. immanifesto* N. Holmgren in staminodiorum barbibus multo brevioribus, et ab *P. carnosus* Pennell in floribus roseo non violaceo-caeruleis, ab uterque foliis basalibus nullis differt.

Perennial glabrous glaucous herbs, with simple ascending stems arising from a branching woody caudex, 8–25 (32) cm tall, the basal rosette lacking; cauline leaves all entire, fleshy-thickened, (1.5) 2–5.5 cm long, (4) 10–25 mm broad, the lower shortly petiolate, spatulate, the middle ones larger, sessile, lanceolate or elliptic, obtuse, the upper reduced, broadly ovate, acute; thyrsus cylindrical (not secund), with 4–9 verticils, the cymes many flowered; calyx glabrous, 5–6.5 mm long, the lobes broadly lanceolate, acuminate, the margin scarious, suffused with rose; corolla 15–18 mm long, rose within, the striae dark rose-pink, the limb ampliate, 10–12 mm in diameter; staminode equaling the tube, not exerted, the apex shortly barbellate (to 0.1 mm long); stamens included, the anthers glabrous, dehiscent throughout and in the connective, not explanate, the sacs

opposite, 1–1.2 mm long; capsules 7–10 mm long.

TYPE: USA. Utah: Uintah Co., T3S R1E S9–10, 5.6 km W of Randlett, 12 May 1980, Neese & White 8609 (Holotype: BRY; Isotypes: NY, US, RM, CAS, UTC, MINN).

PARATYPES: Utah. Uintah Co., T3S R1E S10, 4.8 km W of Randlett, 12 May 1898, Neese & White 8600 (BRY, UT, NY, MO); do T3S R1W S3, 5.8 km S of U.S. Hwy 40, 14 km W of Randlett, 12 May 1980, Neese & White 8606 (BRY, NY, CAS); do T3S R1E S10, 4.8 km W of Randlett, 16 May 1979, E. Neese & B. Welsh 7212 (BRY, NY, GH, MO). Duchesne Co., T3S R2W S21, 3.2 km WNW of Myton, 16 May 1979, Neese & B. Welsh 7218 (BRY, NY); do T3S R2W S12, 4 km due N of Myton, 15 May 1980, Neese & White 8662 (BRY, NY, UC).

The Flowers beardtongue grows in shade scale communities on pale-colored clay slopes and benches between 1,500 and 1,600 m, where old terraces of the Uinta Formation in the Duchesne River drainage are mantled with Pliocene or Pleistocene pedimental gravels. It is common on such habitat in an area of about 8 × 25 km between Randlett and Myton. The species is remarkable in its uniformity in regard to both morphology and habitat. The plants, with their dusty pink flowers and pale gray-green foliage are inconspicuous against the gray clay on which they grow. The near congener, *P. immanifestus*, of central eastern Nevada and western Utah possesses a more prominently bearded staminode. *Penstemon carnosus* Pennell is similar in diagnostic characteristics, but the Flowers beardtongue is quite distinctive in its smaller stature, tufted, usually numerous

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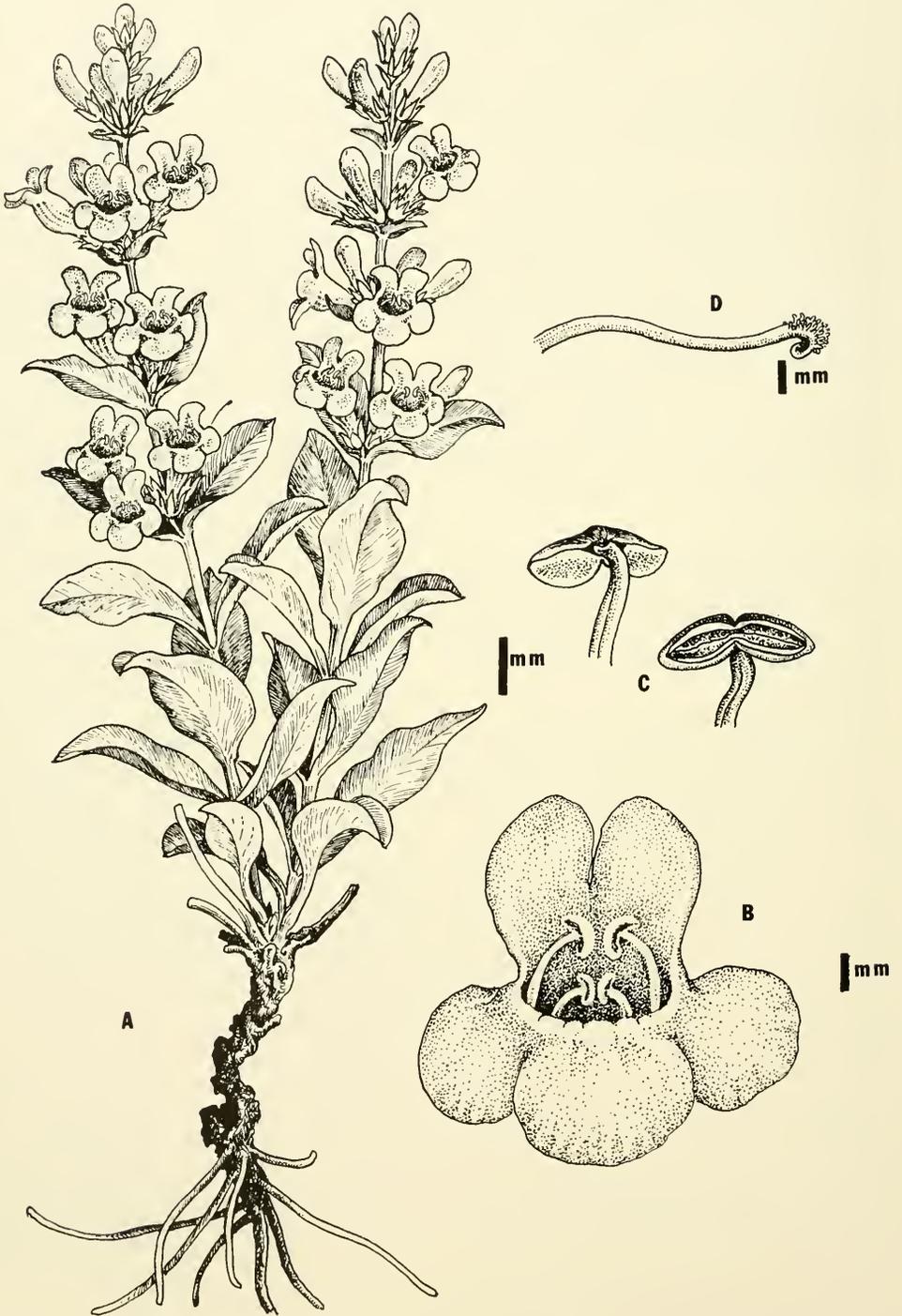


Fig. 1. *Penstemon flowersii* Neese & Welsh: A, Habit. B, Flower. C, Anther-sacs. D, Staminode.

stems, absence of a basal rosette, and pink (not lavender-blue) flowers. *Penstemon carnosus* is a species of the western Colorado Plateau, from the San Rafael Swell and the Henry Mountains westward to Aquarius Plateau (Holmgren 1978).

The plant is named to honor the memory of Dr. Seville Flowers, late professor of botany at the University of Utah. Dr. Flowers was a student of lichens, mosses, and higher plants, and his untimely passing has left a void in the understanding of the plants of Utah and the West.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

- HOLMGREN, N. H. 1978. An overlooked new species of *Penstemon* (Scrophulariaceae) from the Great Basin. *Brittonia* 30:334-339.