

## PAEONIA BROTERI

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*Paeonia broteri* ((footnote: Hong, De-Yuan. "Peonies of the World. Taxonomy and phytogeography." Kew: Royal Botanic Gardens, 2010, p. 160.))

Perennials. Tap roots carrot-shaped, up to 3 cm in diameter, lateral roots thin and basipetally attenuate. Stems usually purple, less frequently green, glabrous, 30—80 cm tall. Lower leaves biternate, usually most or nearly all leaflets segmented; leaflets/leaf segments 11—32, but mostly 15—21 in number, elliptic or ovate—lanceolate, rarely obovate, 4-10 (15) cm long, 1.5—5 (6.5) cm wide, cuneate at the base, acute or short—acuminate at the apex, glabrous on both sides, very occasionally sparsely puberulous beneath. Flowers solitary and terminal; involucrate bracts 2 or 1 in number, leaf-like, or very rarely absent; sepals usually 3, rarely 4 in number, mostly rounded at the apex, up to 3 cm long, 2.6 cm wide, green but purple at the periphery, glabrous, very occasionally puberulous on the abaxial side; petals 6—7 in number, pink-red, 5—6 cm long, 3—4 cm wide; filaments yellow or purple; anthers yellow; disk waved, 2 mm high, glabrous or tomentose; carpels mostly 2 or 3, less frequently 1 or 4, very occasionally 5 in number, tomentose, hairs 2 mm long, rust-brown; stigmas sessile, red, 2.5 mm wide. Follicles 2.5—4 cm long, 1.3-1.6 cm in diameter. Seeds oblong, black, 7-8 mm long, 5—6 mm wide.

*Paeonia broteri* in Portugal - Copyright Samuel da Costa

Chromosome number:  $2n = 10$  (diploid)

Growing in shrubs, oak or pine forests, in limestone soils at altitudes from 300 to 1,830 m. Confined to the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal). (We saw two collections from Morocco on a sheet in the Botanical Museum, University of Lund, Sweden. One is from Mt (Djebel) Hassen, 1910—1911, M. Gandoger s.n. and the other from Mt Onezzan, 1910—1911, M. Gandoger s.n. According to Dr G. Dahlgren (personal communication), the field records of Gandoger's collections were often mixed up.)

*Paeonia broteri* is characterised by plants glabrous throughout except carpels, leaflets or segments relatively narrow with a relatively high number. The species is closely related to *P. clusii*, and their relationship is discussed under that species. *Paeonia broteri* also resembles *P. coriacea* and *P. mascula* to some extent, but differs from the former in having tomentose carpels and narrower leaflets/leaf segments (1.5—5—(6.5) rather than 2—8 cm wide), and from the latter in having more leaflets or segments (11-32 rather than 10—18—(21)), which are smaller (4—10—(15) x 1.5—5—(6.5) cm rather than 4.5—18 x 3-9 cm) and nearly always glabrous, and shorter hairs on carpels (2 mm rather than 3 mm long). Furthermore, *P. broteri* is a diploid ( $2n = 10$ ), whereas *P. coriacea* and *P. mascula* are tetraploid ( $2n = 20$ ). We found *P. broteri* and *P. coriacea* coexisting in the Alfacar Mountains, NE of Granada, but they appeared distinct.

Images below: *Paeonia broteri* in Portugal. Copyright Samuel da Costa

The white form is rare and lacks all red pigment (including the stems)