

130. *Angræcum Smithii*, Rolfe; aphyllum, radicibus fasciculatis gracilibus subteretibus subflexuosis pallide viridibus, caule brevissimo, racemis gracilibus brevibus 8-12-floris, bracteis lanceolato-oblongis acutis parvis, sepalis petalisque linearis-lanceolatis acutis suberectis, labello linearis-lanceolato acuto suberecto, calcare recurvo-patenti conico, columna brevissima, pollinaris stipite simplice.

HAB.—Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Radices 4-6 lin. longæ. *Racemi* 1 poll. longi. *Bractees* $\frac{1}{2}$ lin. longæ. *Pedicelli* $\frac{3}{4}$ lin. longi. *Sepala et petala* 1 lin. longæ. *Labellum* 1 lin. longum; *calcar* vix 1 lin. longum.

A minute leafless species sent to Kew by Consul C. S. Smith, of the Kilimanjaro Delimitation Commission. It flowered early in 1894, and again during the present year. It was found growing on the same branch with *Angræcum bilobum*, var. *Kirkii*. It is like a miniature edition of *A. geyonianum*, Rehb., f., but differs in having roots only half as thick, racemes several times shorter, and distinctly smaller flowers. As the latter species has recently been referred to *Mystacidium* it seems advisable to point out that, like the present one, it has only a single stipes to the pollinarium, and certainly does not belong to that genus. It has also been transferred to *Guzmania*, which, however, has only the leafless habit to stand upon, and even that is fallacious, for leaves are sometimes developed, though they die away early. It has seven published synonyms (*Mystacidium globulosum* and *M. radicans*, Durand & Schinz, are not only synonymous but originally based on the same number), and as at least half of them have arisen through pure misconception it seems desirable to append these remarks, otherwise the present species might also be transferred to *Mystacidium*.

CCCCXLIII.—IBOGA ROOT.

(*Tabernaemontana Iboea*, Baill.)

With plate.

The roots of the plant known as Iboea in the Gaboon and Boeca on the Congo, possess tonic properties, and in large doses are said to stimulate the nervous system. Up to quite recently the only information respecting it was contained in the *Catalogue des Produits des Colonies Françaises*, at the Paris Exhibition, 1887, p. 108. Specimens were exhibited with the following note by M. Griffon du Bellay: "Gabon, *Tabernaemontana* (Sp. ?). Iboea des gabonnais. Les racines toniques, à haute dose, sont un excitant du système nerveux." A note based on this is also to be found in Moloney's *Forestry of West Africa*, p. 384.

Laterly some specimens of the roots and twigs were communicated to Kew by Dr. Hugo Müller, F.R.S. who stated "the roots called Boeca are used and much valued on the lower Congo as a febrifuge."

The plant according to Baillon, who first identified it, is known at Cape Lopez as Iboea, but it has other local names. It is the Aboca of the Pahouis and Obonété of the Gaboon.

Recently a figure and description were published in *Hooker's Icones Plantarum* [4th Series], tab. 2337. It belongs to the natural order



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Tabernaemontana iboga. Baill.

Apocynacea, *Tabernaemthe Boga*, Baill. (in *Bull. Soc. Linn. Paris*, i. 782); was collected by Mann in the Gaboon (No. 943), and by Welwitsch in Angola (No. 5950). Professor Oliver who drew up the description in the *Icones* adds "first discriminated by Dr. Baillon, but its position left doubtful though its points of contact with *Tabernaemontana* and other groups of *Apocynaceae*, were clearly indicated by him. Were it not for the complete consolidation of the carpels one would hardly hesitate to merge it in *Tabernaemontana* itself. . . . It is described as having a large bitter root, eaten by the Gaboon people. 'Ils la disent enivrante, aphrodisiaque, et avec elle ils prétendent qu'on n'éprouve aucun besoin de sommeil.' Dr. Baillon in his *Hist. de Plantes*, x. 170, says the Obouété of the Gaboon is a 'plante médicameuteuse des plus remarquables.' "

This is substantially all that is known of the plant at present. Further material is kindly being sought for by Dr. Hugo Müller. When this arrives it may be possible to investigate the medicinal properties of the plant more fully.

REFERENCE TO PLATE.

Tabernaemthe Boga, Baill.

Fig. 1. Bud. 2. Calyx segment and gland. 3. Corolla-tube laid open. 4. Anther. 5. Pistil. 6. Transverse section of ovary near base. 7. Same near middle. *All enlarged.*

CCCCXLIV.—SIAM PLANTS.

Mr. F. H. Smiles, a gentleman attached to the Royal Survey Department of Siam, has presented a small collection of dried plants made by himself in the mountains of the interior of the northern part of that country. The specimens are not all that could be desired, this being Mr. Smiles's first essay in collecting and drying plants, undertaken without any previous instruction; but they include several interesting novelties sufficiently represented for description. Remarkable among other things is a new genus of *Scitamineae* of quite an aberrant type. There is also a very distinct new species of *Argostemma* (*Rubiaceae*), differing from those previously known in its small dimensions, exceeding slenderness, and one-flowered stems. Mr. Smiles left England again for Siam in the middle of December with the intention, if circumstances permitted, of making further botanical collections. Judging from what is known of the countries to the north, there must be a very rich flora in Upper Siam.

The new genus of *Scitamineae* which is now described is remarkable in several particulars, but more especially in having unisexual flowers, and in the absence of a labellum and of staminodia of any kind whatsoever. The specimens consist of two slender stems, six to nine inches high, naked below, as if pulled away from a tubercous rootstock, and bearing two or three grass-like leaves and a terminal nodding inflorescence, with coloured bracts and bracteoles. The flowers are minute and cylindrical, and almost hidden by the folded distichous bracteoles, each of which bears one flower in its axil. There are about three or four dense globular spikelets about half-an-inch in diameter in each