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A New Euphorbia from St. Helena

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Frutex scandens (Kirk). *Ramuli* leviter costati, juniores pilosuli, vetustiores glabri. *Folia* ovata, apice breviter acuminata, basi cordata vel subtruncata, 5–7 cm. longa, 3.5–4.5 cm. lata, inconspicue crenata vel subintegra, chartacea, supra glabra, subtus secus nervos subappresse pilosa; petioli 2–4 cm. longi, pubescentes. *Thyrsi* laxi, fructiferi 4–11 cm. longi, rhachi plus minusve pubescente; pedunculi 5–6 mm. longi; pedicelli 2.3 mm. longi. *Flores* non visi. *Mericalpia* suborbicularia, 1.5–1.7 cm. longa, 1.5–1.8 cm. lata, manifeste reticulata, glabra, sinu basali 1 mm. longo, apicali 1–1.5 mm. longo. *Semina* 5 mm. longa, 3.5–4 mm. lata, nitida, glabra, endospermio corneo.—*G. longipetala*, Hemsl. in Oliv. Fl. Trop. Afr. i. p. 383 (1868), quoad fructum.

DISTRIB. Portuguese East Africa: Shupanga, Kirk (1860).

5. **G. Sereti**, *De Wild.* in Ann. Mus. Congo, Sér. V. ii. 45 (1907).

DISTRIB. Belgian Congo: on the borders of the forest between Niangara and Gumbari, *Seret* 448.

XXXVII.—A NEW EUPHORBIA FROM ST. HELENA.

A. THELLUNG and O. STAFF.

In the Report on the Botany of the Atlantic Islands Hemsley enumerated a doubtful *Euphorbia Chamaesyce* which since Burchell's day had repeatedly been collected in St. Helena where it was known as "French Grass." He says of it "We have been unable to match this, but in a genus like *Euphorbia* we shrink from founding a new species upon what may be only a slightly altered state of some well-known one, or even exactly the same as a described species. Roxburgh treated it as an introduced plant, and named it *Euphorbia rosea*, which it is not. Burchell who did not distinguish between the native and introduced plants, collected it in Sandy Bay; Melliss expressed his opinion that it is probably indigenous." Recently Dr. Thellung, of Zurich, had an opportunity of examining some fragments of the St. Helena plant and by his studies of alien plants and weeds having made himself familiar with the members of the *Chamaesyceae* group of *Euphorbia*, came to the conclusion that it represented indeed, as Hemsley suggested, a new species. Subsequently he applied to me for the examination of the fairly ample material preserved in the Kew collections and the completion of the description which he had drawn up from the samples at his disposal, the result being the confirmation of his view of the plant as an undescribed member of the *Chamaesyceae* group and the description of it given below.

Although extremely similar in general appearance to several species of the *Chamaesyceae* the structure of the involucre is quite distinct. It is distinctly 5-merous, whilst it is stated to be 4-merous in all the other species of the group. There are 5 fimbriate broad-linear segments and alternating with them 5 linear somewhat narrower and shorter segments. Of these

4 (sometimes only 3) bear at their apex a roundish yellow gland, slightly impressed in the centre, the fifth (or fourth or fifth) being produced into two horns, very like the fimbriae with or without a rudimentary gland at their base. The species does not seem to have been found so far in any other part of the world and must therefore for the present be regarded as endemic in St. Helena.

Euphorbia (§**Anisophyllum**) **heleniana**, *Thellung et Stapf* [Euphorbiaceae-Euphorbieae]; habitu simillima *E. Chamaesycae*, L., *E. humifusae*, Willd., *E. inaequilatae*, Sond., *E. serpyllifoliae*, Pers., sed ab omnibus hisce speciebus involucro 5-mero fimbriato-lobato distincta. Caeterum differt ab *E. Chamaesyce*, cuius formis a W. B. Hemsley dubitanter adnumerata erat, foliis serrulatis, glabritie omnium partium, glandulis minimis rotundatis exappendiculatis, seminibus levissime tantum rugulosis, ab *E. humifusa* foliis crassiusculis, seminibus haud levissimis, ab *E. inaequilata* seminibus multo levius rugulosis, ab *E. serpyllifolia* quacum seminum structura bene convenit, foliis crassiusculis. *E. ovalifolia* Engelm., involucris lobis fimbriatis quidem gaudens, differt foliis tenuibus integerrimis.

Herba annua, glaberrima, radice tenui. *Caules* prostrati, 5-6 cm., raro ad 12 cm. longi, filiformes, cylindrici, saepe purpurascentes, dichotome ramosi. *Folia* opposita, crassiuscula, saepe purpureo-tincta, lati elliptico- vel oblongo-obovata, basi plerumque inaequalia, latere altero rotundato vel subcordato, altero attenuato, a medio vel saltem apicem versus subtiliter sed distincte mucronulato-serrulata, apice obtusa, 3-5 mm. longa, 1.5-3 mm. lata. *Stipulae* membranaceae, in lacinias filiformes fissae. *Cyathia* versus apices ramorum in dichotomiis solitaria, breviter (circiter $\frac{2}{3}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ mm.) pedunculata, campanulato-turbinata, circiter 1 mm. longa, fauce nuda, lobis elongatis fimbriatis, fimbriis plerumque 3 (rarius ad 5) e cellulis 2- vel pluri-seriatis constantibus; glandulae rotundatae, centro vix impressae, minimae, stipitatae stipite appianato, appendicibus nullis. *Flores* ♂ circiter 4. *Capsula* circiter 1.5-2 mm. longa, 1.5 mm. diametro, coccis dorso carinatis; styli breves, breviter 2-fidi. *Semina* oblongo-ovoidea, tetragona, paulo ultra 1 mm. longa, $\frac{2}{3}$ mm. lata, aurantiaca vel pallide fusca, faciebis fere laevibus, medio tantum rugulis transversis perpaucis levissimis undulatis.—*E. rosea*, Roxb. in Beatson's St. Helena Tracts, p. 308; Melliss, St. Helena, p. 319, non Retz. *E. Chamaesyce*, (var. vel species nova?), Hemsley, Bot. Challenger Exp. vol. i. p. 82, non Linn. *E. prostrata* Burch. exs. No. 110 ex Hemsley, l.c., non Ciet.

ST. HELENA. Potato Bay, 1809, *Burchell* 110; lower barren rocky parts, 1867, *Melliss*; without precise locality, *Haughton*; *Whitehead*.