

TWO NEW FLOWERING PLANTS FROM ST. LUCIA

A. C. SMITH AND H. A. GLEASON

AMONG the West Indian specimens which Dr. John S. Beard, formerly of the Forest Department, Trinidad, has sent to the Arnold Arboretum in recent years, the two species from St. Lucia discussed below appear to be hitherto undescribed.

ROSACEAE

Licania oligantha A. C. Smith, sp. nov.

Arbor 5–15 m. alta, ramulis gracilibus, hornotinis complanatis sericeo-puberulis, annotinis teretibus glabrescentibus lenticellatis; stipulis linearilanceolatis 4–8 mm. longis sericeis mox caducis; petiolis subteretibus rugulosis 2–5 mm. longis primo pallide sericeis mox glabris; laminis chartaceis utrinque in sicco olivaceis oblongo-ellipticis, (3.5–) 5–10.5 cm. longis, (1.8–) 2.5–4.5 cm. latis, basi obtusis vel acutis et in petiolum breviter decurrentibus, in apicem calloso-apiculatum cuspidatis, margine integris et leviter recurvatis, juventute subtus et costa supra sparse strigillosis mox glabrescentibus, costa supra leviter elevata subtus prominente, nervis secundariis utrinsecus 6–10 erecto-patentibus leviter curvatis anastomosantibus et rete venularum copioso utrinque prominulis; inflorescentiis plerumque axillaribus interdum terminalibus compacte cymoso-paniculatis sub anthesi 1–2.5 cm. longis et plerumque 1–5-floris, pedunculo leviter complanato brevissimo et ramulis sericeo-puberulis, bracteis oblongis puberulis 3–3.5 mm. longis, ramulis lateralibus paucis 2–5 mm. longis plerumque unifloris raro 2- vel 3-floris, bracteolis 2 oppositis membranaceis ovatis 2–2.5 mm. longis minute sericeis; floribus subsessilibus, pedicellis ad 1.5 mm. longis; calyce cupuliformi sub anthesi 5–6 mm. longo et apice diametro, extus arcte sericeo, tubo 2–2.5 mm. longo basi subacuto intus copiose et breviter sericeo, limbo erecto-patente profunde 5-lobato, lobis papyraceis deltoideis $3-3.5 \times 2-3$ mm. apice acutis intus puberulis basi anguste imbricatis; petalis 5 membranaceis obovato-vel ovato-ellipticis, 2–3 mm. longis, 1.3–1.5 mm. latis, basi rotundatis, apice obtusis, intus hispidulis extus puberulis mox glabrescentibus et caducis; staminibus 15–20 sub anthesi leviter exsertis, filamentis ligulatis 2.5–3.5 mm. longis utrinque copiose pallido-hispidulis superne angustatis glabrisque, antheris ellipsoideis 0.5–0.6 mm. longis; ovario ellipsoideo copiose hispidulo, stylo tereti circiter 5 mm. longo praeter apicem glabrum copiose hispidulo, stigmate minute peltato.

ST. LUCIA: Quillesse, alt. 300 m., *J. S. Beard* 492 (TYPE, Arnold Arb.), June 5, 1945 (tree 15 m. high, rare in understorey of rain-forest; trunk 50 cm. diam., fluted; flowers creamy white; fruit blue, attractive to birds); La Sorcière, alt. 700 m., *J. S. Beard* 488, June 1, 1945 (tree 5 m. high, in elfin woodland; trunk 30 cm. diam.; flowers creamy white).

Licania oligantha is characterized by its very compact few-flowered inflorescences and its concolorous essentially glabrous leaf-blades. From *L. leucosepala* Griseb., originally described from Guadeloupe but also recorded from Dominica, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia (by R. O. Williams, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1: 315. 1932, as *Moquilea leucosepala*), the new species differs not only in its inflorescence, but also in its slightly smaller leaf-blades with fewer secondaries and its obscurely sericeous rather than cano-tomentose calyx. In referring plants of this alliance to *Licania* rather than *Moquilea*, I follow the generally accepted reduction of the latter genus.

Concerning this species Dr. Beard writes: "It is a small tree with a trunk up to 30 cm. in diameter; the wood is hard and of no economic value. It is almost confined to the exposure sub-type of the rain-forest in the interior of St. Lucia, occurring on the crests of all but the highest ridges and Pitons. I have noted it on La Sorcière, Piton Flore, Piton St. Esprit, Grand Magazin, Morne Tabac, and the slopes of Morne Gimie, at elevations of 1600 to 2200 ft. [Note: The type-collection was found at a lower elevation]. The species is not found in the elfin woodland at the top of Morne Gimie (3000 ft.), and it is very rare in the normal rain-forest of lower elevations. In its particular association it is one of the principal dominants, forming approximately 30% of the stand. The associate dominants are *Micropholis chrysophylloides*, *Myrcia* sp. (Beard no. 478), and *Tovomita Plumieri*. Together with a number of species of lesser abundance, these plants form a low forest of small trees some 30 ft. high, a reduced type due to exposure to wind. In the other islands the principal dominants of the equivalent forest type are *Richeria grandis*, *Micropholis chrysophylloides*, and *Podocarpus coriaceus*. The first of these has not been found by me on St. Lucia, and the last is very rare, found only on Morne Tabac. The *Licania oligantha*-*Micropholis chrysophylloides* association of St. Lucia is, therefore, an interesting special type."

MELASTOMATACEAE

Miconia luciana Gleason, sp. nov. Sect. *Octomeris*.

Arbor 8 m. alta, ramis juvenilibus sparsissime furfuraceis mox glabris. Petioli usque 7.5 cm. longi, sparse furfuracei praesertim supra atque sparse glanduloso-hirtelli. Laminae tenues virides, ovato-lanceolatae vel fere ellipticae, maxima qua suppetit 20 cm. longa 10 cm. lata, acuminatae, crenato-serratae, subcordatae, 5-nerviae, utrinque glabrae. Inflorescentia pedunculata, late pyramidalis, ca. 1 dm. longa, trichotoma. Flores 5-meri, omnes sessiles, saepe solitarii ad apices ramulorum. Hypanthium obconicum, 2.7 mm. longum ad torum, minutissime furfuraceum. Calycis tubus 0.8–0.9 mm. longus, truncatus, ad marginem fere scariosus; sepala obsoleta; dentes exteriores conici, ad tubum adnati, ultra tubum 0.3 mm. projecti. Petala rosea, obovato-oblonga, 5.5–6 mm. longa, 3–3.5 mm. lata, fere equilatera, vix retusa. Stamina isomorpha; filamenta glabra, 3.3 mm. longa; antherae lineares, 3.2 mm. longae, 2-loculares, poro

terminali dehiscentes; connectivum infra thecas 0.2 mm. productum, simplex, leviter dilatatum. Ovarium fere inferum, 4-loculare; stylus rectus, glaber, 6.7 mm. longus, inferne dilatatus; stigma truncatum.

ST. LUCIA: Quillesse, alt. 300 m., *J. S. Beard* 477 (TYPE in herb. N. Y. Bot. Gard.; dupl. Arnold Arb.), May 23, 1945 (tree 8 m. high, in understorey of rain-forest; trunk 10 cm. diam.; flowers pink; local name: *bois cendre*).

From its general aspect and from the nature of the inflorescence and the structure of the flowers, *M. luciana* appears related to the Puerto Rican *M. Thomasiana* DC. It differs from that species in its thinner leaves and various other structural characters.

Of *Miconia luciana* Dr. Beard writes: "It is a small tree, frequently only 3 m. high, with rather conspicuous pinkish flowers. I have found it occasionally in the understorey of the *Dacryodes-Sloanea* rain-forest throughout St. Lucia."

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