

NOTES.

REDISCOVERY OF STATICE ARBOREA AND DISCOVERY OF A NEW, ALLIED SPECIES.—Since the publication of my articles on the *Statice* of the *Nobiles*-section in these Annals (vol. xx, nos. lxxviii and lxxix), one species, *Statice arborea*, of that section which had been all but lost, has been rediscovered, thanks to the persevering efforts of Dr. G. V. Perez, of Orotava.

1. Of *Statice arborea* I said, l. c., p. 212, that it 'inhabited at some time within the last 110 years two very small areas on the north coast of Teneriffe, one at the Burgado Cove, the other at Daute, whilst a third equally small area on El Freyle harbours still a much stunted form of it.' There can be no doubt that it has actually disappeared from the Burgado Cove, and it is the Daute locality where *Statice arborea* has been rediscovered. It was found here by Broussonet early in the last century, and as the species was described by Willdenow from his material, Daute is the *locus classicus* of the species. In August of last year specimens, collected by a shepherd on some precipitous rocks just below the hamlet of the 'Tanque Bajo,' not far from Daute, and known as 'Gateadero,' were brought to Dr. Perez, who kindly communicated them to Kew. This year he received further material from the same locality. This time it did not come direct from there, but was taken from a plant which five years ago had been transferred from 'Gateadero' to the garden of a peasant, Domingo Reyes, at Genovás, not far from Icod. The preservation of the species in that locality is no doubt due to its inaccessibility, even for goats. The specimens had, in fact, to be hauled up by ropes to which hooks were attached. Dr. Perez observes that the specimens which he first received resemble much the form *fruticans* from El Freyle, but for the leaves which were 2-3 times larger, whilst that from the cottage garden at Genovás represents the typical arborescent form, and is 'at present (June, 1907) 1.57 m. high and 3 m. in circumference.'

2. Last August Dr. Perez received plants of a *Statice* from Masca, on the west coast of Teneriffe, which he had not seen before, and which he suggested might be *Statice Preauxii* (see ANNALS OF BOTANY, vol. xx, p. 308). He very generously sent them to Kew. From a photograph, which Professor Baccarini Pasquale, of Florence, made for me of the original of *Statice Preauxii* in Webb's herbarium, and from his notes, it is perfectly clear that the *Statice* from Masca resembles very much *Statice Preauxii* in general appearance, but also that they are specifically distinct, and the former is therefore a new species. It is a very remarkable addition to the small *Nobiles*-group and apparently as restricted in its distribution as any of them, having so far been found only on a single high rock, known as 'Tabucha,' about three miles from the sea, facing west to south-west, and not far from Masca, which is south of Punta Feno. I propose to call it *Statice Perezii*, after Dr. G. V. Perez, and give below

a short diagnosis. I would only mention in addition that the affinities of *Statice Perezii* and *Statice Preauxii* lie evidently with *Statice arborea*, with which the former at least shares the beautiful blue of its large and dense panicles. They can, however, be easily distinguished by the peculiar shape of their leaves. This is already seen in the remarkably glaucous seedling plants which were raised at Kew from seed communicated by Dr. Perez.

Statice Perezii (sp. nov.), habitu *Staticae Preauxii* simillima, praesertim ob folia longe petiolata late triangulari-vel rhomboideo-ovata basi saepe truncata, sed petiolis basi utrinque in auriculum brevem triangularem productis, inflorescentiae ramulis pubescentibus, bracteis ad ramulorum bases sitis subulato-caudatis ciliatis et calyce pubescente distincta.

OTTO STAPP.

A PRELIMINARY NOTE ON SCLEROCYSTIS COREMIOIDES, B. re

Br.—*Sclerocystis* is one of the new genera instituted by Berkeley and Broome from Ceylon specimens. The characters of the genus are 'Capitulum globosum, tomentosum; stipes cylindricus: flocci compositi: cysti elliptici;' and the species 'looks at first like a *Coremium*; head globose, hard, and compact; flocci rigid, compound; cysts elliptic, slightly rugose, sometimes giving out in every direction soft hairs.' The authors add, 'a very singular plant, of which unfortunately the real nature of the fruit is not apparent.' The genus does not seem to have been rediscovered: indeed, it is scarcely probable that anything concerning the real nature of the fungus would ever be deduced from the description. Saccardo follows Berkeley and Broome's arrangement and includes it among the Mucorineae: Schröter (Engler-Prantl, Pflanzenfamilien) does not mention it.

Fortunately there is a specimen in the Peradeniya herbarium, and it is fairly abundant in wet weather at Peradeniya. From these it can be deduced that Berkeley's unnamed figures (Jour. Linn. Soc. Bot. 14 (1875), tab. 10, f. 56) are intended to represent these species, and are not a continuation of the so-called *Eurotium diplocystis* (fig. 55): *a* shows how Berkeley thought the 'cyst' grew at the top of a stalk, *c* shows the 'cyst' covered with radiating hairs, and *b* shows the 'cyst' in a far more natural position, resting on strands of mycelium.

These cysts are small sclerotia, about a millimetre in diameter. They are produced on a white mycelium which spreads more or less in coarse strands over decaying leaves, &c. They are at first white, and then brown, looking when massed together exactly like a sessile *Chondrioderma*. The sclerotia are produced anywhere along the course of a strand, and are at first widely scattered, but ultimately by the copious growth of others they are densely crowded. The mycelium then disappears, leaving the sclerotia free. This species is parasitic, and kills out *Caladium*, *Colocasia*, and artichoke.

Berkeley and Broome's specimen is immature: the developing sclerotia are white, and there is some mycelium present. Evidently when they saw a sclerotium connected with its mycelial strand, they imagined that the latter was a stalk which had been pressed flat in drying; the soft hairs radiating from a 'cyst' are the broken ends of the hyphae which have gone to form the sclerotium. Thwaites 1014, which



Stapf, O. 1908. "Rediscovery of *Statice arborea* and discovery of a new, allied species." *Annals of botany* 22, 115–116.

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