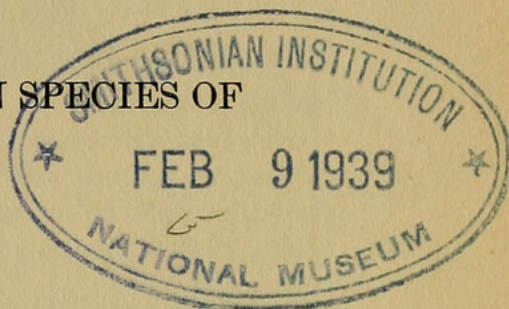


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TWO NEW TROPICAL AMERICAN SPECIES OF
ACANTHACEAE.¹

BY E. C. LEONARD.



The present paper contains descriptions of two new plants of the family Acanthaceae, one a *Mendoncia* received from the National Herbarium of Venezuela, the other a Mexican *Elytraria* in the herbarium of the Field Museum of Natural History.

***Elytraria macrophylla* Leonard, sp. nov.**

Caulescens, caulibus pilosis; lamina foliorum grandis, obovata, obtusa, basi angustata, pilosa vel supra subglabra; petioli pilosi; pedunculi terminales vel subterminales; squamae acuminatae, albo-marginatae, ciliatae; bractae rhombeo-ovatae, acuminatae, extus glabrae, intus appresso-puberulentae, ciliatae; bracteolae lanceolatae, obliquae, subhyalinae, carina et margine ciliatis; calycis segmenta superiora et inferiora concava, elliptica, obtusiuscula, segmenta lateralia lanceolata, acuminata, marginibus subhyalinis.

Stems woody, about 5 mm. in diameter, pilose; leaf blades obovate, up to 30 cm. long and 11 cm. wide, obtuse at apex, narrowed at base, pilose or subglabrous above, the hairs up to 1.5 mm. long; petioles about 3 cm. long, white-pilose, the hairs up to 3 mm. long; peduncles several, terminal or subterminal, up to 35 cm. long, the scales ovate, about 7 mm. long, acuminate, clasping, glabrous, ciliate, green with white margins; spikes 2 cm. long, about 5 mm. in diameter, the bracts rhombic-ovate, 4.5 mm. long, 4 mm. wide, acuminate, ending in a minute spiniform tip, glabrous without, appressed-puberulent within, ciliate, the margins whitish; bractlets lanceolate, 3.5 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, oblique, subhyaline, the margins and keel ciliate; posterior and anterior calyx segments elliptic, 5 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, concave, obtusish, the anterior segment minutely bidentate at apex, the lateral segments lanceolate, 4 mm. long, barely 2 mm. wide, acuminate, the margins subhyaline, all faintly nerved, glabrous, or with a few hairs at tip; corollas and capsules not seen.

Type in the herbarium of the Field Museum of Natural History, no.

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918960, collected at Tamazunchale, San Luis Potosí, Mexico, Nov. 27, 1937, by L. A. Kenoyer (no. 856).

Readily distinguished from other caulescent species by its greater size, the green subglabrous upper surface of its large leaf blades, and its elliptic, concave, obtusish anterior and posterior calyx segments, these similar to each other except for the bidentate tip of the former.

***Mendoncia Cardonae* Leonard, sp. nov.**

Frutex volubilis, caulibus subteretibus, sparse et minute strigosis; lamina foliorum ovata ad elliptica, breviter acuminata, saepe mucronata, basi acuta vel rotundata, in petiolum decurrens, minute strigosa; petioli sparse et minute strigosi; pedicelli graciles, minute et sparse strigosi; bracteae oblongo-ovatae, acutae ad obtusae, basi rotundatae, coriaceae, intus glabrae, extus sparse et minute strigosae; corolla angusta; drupa minute strigosa.

Scandent; stems subterete, minutely and sparingly strigose; leaf blades ovate to elliptic (sometimes asymmetrical), up to 14 cm. long and 6.5 cm. wide, short-acuminate (the tip itself blunt and often mucronate), acute or rounded at base and decurrent on the petiole, sparingly strigose, the hairs above arising from a stellate base; petioles 1–2.5 cm. long, minutely and sparingly strigose; flowers 4 or 5 in the axils of the upper leaves; pedicels about 4 cm. long, slender, minutely and sparingly strigose; bracts oblong-ovate, up to 23 mm. long and 14 mm. wide, acute to obtuse, mucronate, rounded at base, chartaceous, glabrous within, sparingly and minutely strigose without; corolla 3 cm. long, 5 mm. broad at base, narrowed above ovary to 2.5 mm., thence enlarged to 4.5 mm. and slightly narrowed again at throat, the upper half subcylindric, the lobes obovate, 3 mm. long; ovary densely pubescent; drupe 15 mm. long, 10 mm. broad, minutely strigose.

Type in the National Herbarium of Venezuela, collected "en las lomas arriba del sitio de Guanajaña," Merevari, Venezuelan Guyana, 420 meters, March 20, 1937, by F. Cardona (no. 19). Pittier's no. 13517, collected at Aragua, on the trail between El Limón and Colonia Tovar, Venezuela, 1700 meters, May, 1934, is of this species.

The present species resembles *M. Sprucei* in the size and shape of the leaf blades, in the nature of the pubescence, and in the shape, size, and texture of the bracts, but differs markedly in its very narrow corolla. In *M. Sprucei* the corolla is funnelform and about 8 mm. in diameter at throat. The color of the flowers is scarcely apparent in the dried material of the specimens cited, but is probably red or purple.



Leonard, E C. 1939. "Two new tropical American species of Acanthaceae."
Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 52, 17–18.

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