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TULANE UNIVERSITY.

A New Interpretation of the *Dryopteris clintoniana* Group

EDGAR T. WHERRY

It has long been recognized that the fern originally named *Aspidium boottii* by Tuckerman in 1843 is a hybrid between *Dryopteris cristata* and *D. intermedia*. From the former it inherits an oblong outline, from the latter sharply incised margins and glandular epidermal-indusial surfaces. Further indication of its hybrid origin is furnished by its rather marked variation from one clump to another, especially in the position of sori and degree of glandularity.

The taxon first named *Aspidium cristatum* var. *clintonianum* by Eaton in 1867, now widely known as *Dryopteris clintoniana* (Eaton) Dowell, is still more variable, combining in various ways the characters of two rather well-marked members of the genus—*D. cristata* and *D. goldiana*; its duration varies from evergreen to deciduous, the rhizome scales from pale brown to shining black, the frond-outline from narrowly to broadly oblong, the tip from gradually to abruptly acuminate, the basal pinnae from deltoid to undulately oblong, and the sorus-position from supra-medial to subcostular. This



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