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MISCELLANEOUS NEW ASCLEPIADACEAE FROM TROPICAL AMERICA

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CYNANCHUM (METALEPIS) **Marsdenioides** Woodson, spec. nov. Frutex volubilis lactescens usque 5 m. vel ultra attingens; ramulis crassiusculis juventate minute puberulis mox glabratis post exsiccationem conspicue striatis pallidis. Folia opposita longe petiolata late ovato-elliptica basi late cordata apice abrupte longiuscule acute acuminata 14–16 cm. longa 9–10 cm. lata firme membranacea glabra nervo medio supra basi conspicue pectinatim pluriglanduloso, petiolis 7–8 cm. longis. Inflorescentiae (ramuli florigerentes aphylli) axillares oppositae, pedunculo 15–26 cm. longo crassiusculo minute puberulo-striato, internodiis basi 6–8 cm. longis apicem versus gradatim brevioribus, ramulis bostrycino-racemosis plurifloris unilateraliter 2–3-natis positae inaequilongis 2–6 cm. longis aliquando more pedunculi primarii compositis, pedicellis 0.4 cm. longis minute puberulis. Calycis lobi oblongo-lanceolati ca. 0.35 cm. longi glabri. Corolla ut videtur gilva vel viridula rotata, lobis ovatis acuminatis ca. 0.2 cm. longis 0.15 cm. latis basi concavis extus glabris intus apicem versus pilosis. Corona plane cyathiformis ca. 0.2 cm. diam., lobis 5 quadratis intus minutissime papillatis marginibus anguste involutis. Gynostegium breviter (ca. 0.05 cm.) stipitatum disciforme ca. 0.2 cm. diam., stigmatum umbonato; pollinibus pendulis anguste reniformibus ca. 0.05 cm. longis, caudiculis subhorizontalibus ca. 0.1 cm. longis, corpusculo mediocri. Folliculi ut dicitur fusiformi 22–25 cm. longi ca. 10 cm. crassi.—ECUADOR: LOS RIOS: Oct., 1934, Y. *Mexia* 6660, whence grown from seed at Puerto Rico Experiment Sta. U. S. D. A., Mayaguez, P. R., R. H. Moore 2163 (U. S. Nat. Arb. Herb., TYPE).

Most closely related to *C. Haughtii*, also of Ecuador, but with very precise distinctions: *C. Haughtii* has more deeply concave corolla-lobes; the corona segments are sharply inflexed, are conduplicate-emarginate, and are separated by smaller, alternate lobules; the sepals are proportionately broader and pilulose

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without; the caudicles of the pollinia are somewhat shorter and are concealed by the anther appendages whilst they are conspicuous in *C. Marsdenioides* as in *C. cubense*.

It may be worth while at this juncture to comment upon the compound "inflorescence" of the various species of *Cynanchum* subgen. *Metalepis* which differ superficially from the inflorescence of most other Asclepiadaceae in their truly axillary position. As is well known, the true inflorescence of Asclepiadaceae generally is extra-axillary and interpetiolar. An examination of any of the five published species of *Cynanchum* subgen. *Metalepis* demonstrates that the inflorescences, all compound and axillary, are homologous with the vegetative branches, since the flowering secondary peduncles are borne in an extra-axillary or "interpetiolar" position with respect to the bracts (*i. e.* reduced foliage leaves).

CYNANCHUM (METALEPIS) peraffine Woodson, spec. nov. Frutex volubilis lacteus; ramulis gracillimis glabris, internodiis elongatis. Folia opposita late ovata apice abrupte subcaudato-acuminata basi rotundate cordata 5–9 cm. longa 3–6 cm. lata tenuiter membranacea utrinque glabra nervo medio supra basi glanduligera; petiolis tenuibus 2.5–4.0 cm. longis glabris. Inflorescentia axillaris longiuscule pedunculata congeste bostrycino-racemosa pluriflora, pedunculo 2.5–4.0 cm. longo apicem versus florigero ibique puberulo basim glabro, pedicellis 0.2–0.3 cm. longis puberulis. Calycis lobi ovato-lanceolati acuminati extus minutissime sparseque pilosuli. Corolla alba, tubo cylindrico ca. 0.15 cm. longo ca. 0.2 cm. diam. extus glabro, lobis ovato-lanceolatis acutis 0.5 cm. longis patulis margine revolutis extus glabris intus margine dense puberulo-papillatis. Corona cyathiformis, lobis 5 acute emarginatis ca. 0.05 cm. longis minute papillatis compositis. Gynostegii stipes conicus ca. 0.08 cm. altus dense papillatus; stigmatibus umbonatis cum antheris ca. 0.3 cm. diam.; pollinibus pendulis anguste reniformibus ca. 0.08 cm. longis, caudiculis ca. 0.1 cm. longis, corpusculo mediocri. Fructus ignoti.—**MEXICO: OAXACA:** in llanos, Distr. Tuxtepec, Chiltepec and vicinity, alt. about 20 m., July, 1940–Feb., 1941, *G. Martínez-Calderón 258* (U. S. Nat. Herb., no. 1,808,120, TYPE).

Very closely related to *C. cubense* (Griseb.) Woods., which has mucronate or more gradually acute leaves, apparently of heavier texture, and somewhat smaller flowers with campanulate corolla tubes and nearly quadrate corona lobes. The two species present an interesting case of geographic parallelism.

MATELEA (EUMATELEA § RETICULATAE) serpens Woodson, spec. nov. Fruticulus volubilis prostratus; ramulis tenuibus longiuscule pilosis, internodiis sat elongatis. Folia opposita ovato-lanceolata apice longe acuminata basi late cordata 3–5 cm. longa 1.5–2.5 cm. lata membranacea utrinque plus minusve pilosa nervo medio supra basi inconspicue glanduligera, petiolis tenuibus 1.5–2.0 cm. longis longiuscule pilosis. Inflorescentia extra-axillaris longe pedunculata umbelliformis pluriflora, pedunculo 2–4 cm. longo tenui laxo piloso, pedicellis tenuibus in flore ca. 1 cm. longis post anthesem conspicue elongatis, bracteis conspicuis foliaceis linearibus longe acuminatis 0.4–0.8 cm. longis. Calycis lobi ovato- vel oblongo-

elliptici acuti in flore 0.6 cm. longi post anthesem ad 1 cm. accrescentes conspicue foliacei extus longiuscule pilosi glandulis minutis sessilibus brunneis interspersis. Corolla rotata ca. 1.3 cm. diam. ut videtur gilva; lobis ovato-ellipticis acutis ca. 0.5 cm. longis extus medio pilosis intus glabris. Corona vix manifesta, limbus inconspicuissimus gynostegio basi solum annectus. Gynostegii stipes ca. 0.1 cm. longus 0.15 cm. crassus; stigmatate late conico ca. 0.2 cm. diam. 0.1 cm. alto luteo; antheris sub stigmatate positae; pollinibus horizontalibus obpyriformi-subcoclearibus profunde excavatis cum caudiculis alatis ca. 0.08 cm. longis, corpusculo minuto. Folliculi ignoti.—MEXICO: NUEVO LEON: on Pan American Highway, near Monterrey, Apr. 26, 1939, T. C. & E. M. Frye 2490 (U. S. Nat. Herb., no. 1,809,052, TYPE).

This species differs from all *Mateleas* with which I am acquainted because of its white or cream-colored corollas and conspicuous, foliaceous calyx lobes. The extreme reduction of the corona also is noteworthy.



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