

## DRACÆNA AMERICANA, DONN. SM.

DRACÆNA AMERICANA, *n. sp.*

Leaves linear-ensiform, tapering from about the middle to an acute apex, contracted above the dilated and obliquely amplexicaul base, from 21 to 35 centimetres long, from 1 to 2.3 centimetres broad, pergameneous, with scariose margins, green on both surfaces, ecostate, at first erect, becoming recurved; nerves prominent above and beneath, at the base of leaf from 16 to 19, and at its middle from 40 to 50, including the intermediate weaker ones. Panicles ovoid, dense, from 13 to 24 centimetres high, scarcely equalling the nearest leaves; branches alternate, leafy-bracted, short, spreading at an angle of from  $45^{\circ}$  to  $60^{\circ}$ ; racemes from 4 to 8 centimetres long; pedicels solitary, binate or ternate, from 3 to 6 millimetres long, articulated above their middle; bractlets cuspidate-deltoid, minute; perianth white, 7 millimetres long, the segments 6 times longer than the tube; stamens 5 millimetres long; filaments yellow, broadly applanate, contracted at each end; anthers a third shorter, pallid, affixed near their base; ovary oval, with the twice longer style equalling the perianth in length, ovules solitary, orbicular. Berry greenish yellow, pulpose, 3 or by abortion 2-1-seeded; if 3-seeded, depressed-globose, slightly and obtusely 3-lobulate, transversely about 2 centimetres in diameter; if 2-seeded, transversely oval; if 1-seeded, globose; seeds subglobose, from 10 to 12 millimetres in diameter.

A tree, from 7 to 12 metres high, with a trunk from 2 to 3 decimetres in diameter, clad with a grayish and somewhat exfoliating bark; branches dichotomous; young branchlets striate, marked by the oblique and completely annular scars of fallen leaves, densely leafy for the space of from 3 to 4.5 decimetres below their tips. Fruit maturing in December.

Guatemala: Department of Alta Verapaz, forests of Hacienda Cubilquitz, at an altitude of 350 metres above the sea-level, *H. von Türckheim*, March, 1902 (No. 8312 of my Series of Central American plants). Honduras, Department of Santa Bárbara, San Pedro Sula, at an altitude of 300 metres above the sea-level, *C. Thieme*, May, 1888 (No. 5602 of the same Series); Rio Tela, Puerto Sierra, *Percy Wilson*, February, 1903 (No. 425). Costa Rica, Comarca de Puntarenas, Puente Lagurto, at an altitude of 500 metres above the sea-level, *Adolfo Tonduz* (No. 4811); Comarca de Puntarenas, Santa Fe, *Enrique Pittier*, February, 1897 (No. 11200).

According to the arrangement in Baker's Monograph of the Asparagaceæ (*Jour. Linn. Soc.* xiv. 508), this species belongs to the Section of which *Draccena Draco*, *L.*, is the type. It is, in fact, nearest to that species by its minute flowers. Since the genus has been known hitherto only from the Old World, its representation in America is an interesting discovery. The widely separated localities, as above cited, indicate the general distribution of this species throughout Central America in the *tierra caliente* of both the Atlantic and the Pacific slopes. Young plants produced from seeds, brought by Mr. Wilson from Honduras, are under cultivation in the New York Botanical Garden. Duplicates of Nos. 8312 and 5602, under the name of *Cordyline oligosperma*, *Donn. Sm. ined.*, have been communicated to the following herbaria: Arnold Arboretum and Gray Herbarium, Harvard University; Smithsonian Institution; Columbia University; Missouri Bot. Garden; Royal Gardens, Kew; Königl. Bot. Museum, Berlin; Bot. Museum der Universität, Munich.

JOHN DONNELL SMITH.

Baltimore.



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

PLATE XCVIII. DRACÆNA AMERICANA.

1. A flowering branch, natural size.
2. A flower, enlarged.
3. A stamen, front and rear views, enlarged.
4. A pistil, enlarged.
5. A pistil transversely divided through the ovary, enlarged.
6. A berry, natural size.
7. A seed, enlarged.
8. Vertical section of a seed, enlarged.
9. Base of a leaf, showing the nervation, natural size.
10. Middle part of a leaf, showing the nervation, natural size.
11. A branchlet, showing scars of fallen leaves, natural size.





C. E. Faxon del.

DRACÆNA AMERICANA, Donn. Sm.