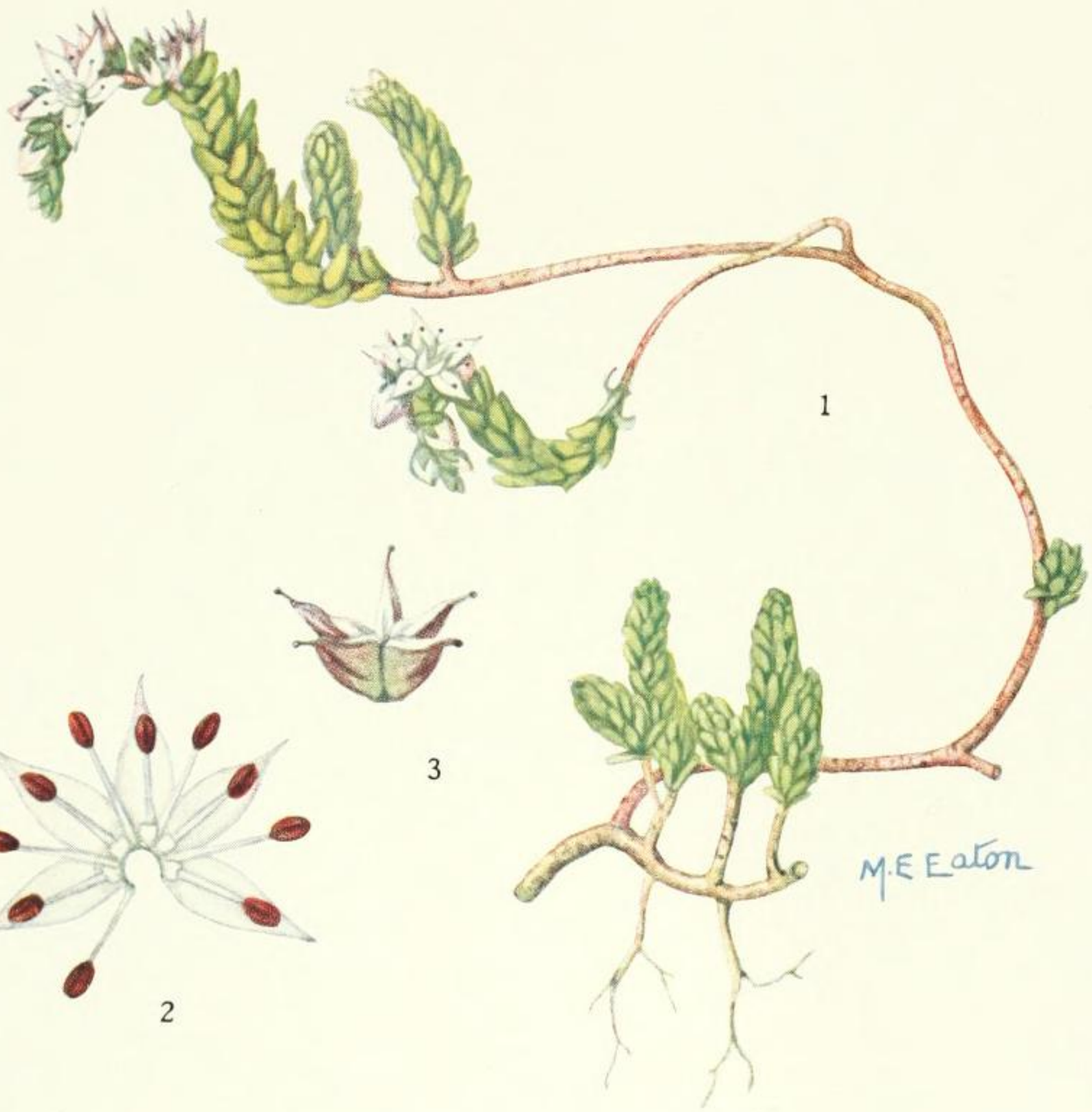
PLATE 270

ADDISONIA



SEDUM DIFFUSUM

(Plate 270)

SEDUM DIFFUSUM

Spreading Stonecrop

Native of Monterey, Mexico

Family CRASSULACEAE ORPINE Family

Sedum diffusum S. Wats. Proc. Am. Acad. **25**: 148. 1890.

The genus *Sedum* contains about five hundred species of which more than one hundred and fifty are now in cultivation. There is great diversity among the species even after certain groups usually treated under *Sedum*, have been segregated, such as *Rhodiola*, *Villadia*, and *Clementsia*. Many of the species are ornamental and have been widely grown for carpet and formal bedding and, as is well known, many are used for all kinds of rock-work.

In recent years Mexico has yielded many new species, some of which are very attractive and have been widely introduced into cultivation. In 1890 Sereno Watson described a *Sedum* collected by C. G. Pringle near Monterey, Mexico, but it was not introduced into cultivation until 1921 when Robert Runyon rediscovered it at the type locality. Since then it has been extensively grown at Washington and in the New York Botanical Garden. It grows rapidly, flowering freely and promises to be a valuable acquisition to our ornamental species of *Sedum*. It is well named *diffusum* for it grows prostrate in dense mats or when planted in pots hangs over the sides and roots when the branches reach the benches.

The stems of the spreading stonecrop are slender, green or becoming purple and four to twelve inches long, freely branching; the leaves are alternate but closely set, bluish green, glaucous, less than half an inch long, narrow and terete; the flowers are borne in terminal, secund, leafy racemes, sometimes two inches long, white, tinged on the outside with pink, rotate and less than half an inch broad; the sepals are green, small and leaf-like; the five petals are ovate and pointed; the ten anthers are brownish; the carpels are five, spreading, truncate and brownish.

J. N. ROSE.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE. Fig. 1.—Portion of flowering plant. Fig. 2.—Corolla, split open, with stamens, × 3. Fig. 3.—Fruit, × 3.