

rather abundant and forming a rather thick, partly adherent covering of the endocarp; nuts rather long; hilum basal, somewhat prominent, nearly circular, with scattered coarse pits; adhilum represented by a slight swelling above the margin. Supposed to come from Panama, but the locality unknown. Fruit head received from J. R. Smith, Waterbury, Conn., in Economic Herbarium of U. S. Department of Agriculture, bearing U. S. National Herbarium No. 691784.

More extended descriptions with numerous photographic illustrations have been prepared for publication, in connection with a general review of the South American species.

BOTANY.—*A new genus of davallioid ferns.*<sup>1</sup> WILLIAM R. MAXON.

In revising the treatment of the pteridophyta for the second edition of the *Flora of the Southeastern United States* the writer has found it necessary to remove from the genus *Odontosoria* the species known latterly as *Odontosoria clavata* (L.) J. Smith and to refer it to a new genus, *Sphenomeris*. The publication of this volume having been delayed, it seems desirable to publish this name elsewhere, since a paper<sup>2</sup> dealing with the species of true *Odontosoria* (with references to *Sphenomeris*) is already in proof and may conflict in date of publication with that of the *Flora*.

In the unpublished treatment of *Odontosoria* just mentioned it is pointed out: (1) That the genus *Odontosoria*, as recognized by Diels in the *Pflanzenfamilien* of Engler and Prantl, comprises two sections or subgenera, the first (*Eu-Odontosoria*) containing rather small species of erect or ascending habit and determinate growth, the second (*Stenoloma*) containing three nominal species of indefinite scandent growth; (2) that these two groups are entitled to recognition as distinct genera; and (3) that, adopting this view, it is necessary to apply the name *Odontosoria* to the second group, the large climbing species, rather than to the first, as has been done erroneously by Diels. The grounds for this disposition are then presented, together with a review of the

<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

<sup>2</sup> *Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb.* **17**, part 2 (unpublished).

taxonomic history of *Odontosoria* in its broad sense and a revision of the American species now properly to be referred to that genus.

The group of species of upright or ascending habit and determinate growth, of which the *Odontosoria clavata* of authors is a familiar example, has no valid name. It may be characterized briefly as follows:

**Sphenomeris** Maxon, gen. nov.

Mainly tropical ferns, with slender creeping hairy rhizomes. Fronds subfasciculate, erect or ascending, of small or medium size; stipes not jointed to the rhizome; lamina 3 or 4 times obliquely pinnate or pinnatifid, the divisions alternate, the ultimate segments strongly cuneate; veins free. Sori terminal at or near the truncate apex of the segments, single or 2 to 4 joined; indusia similar in texture to the opposed leaf-margin, flattish, pocket-like, attached at the base and sides, single at the clavate apices of the veins or, if joined, borne upon a translucent receptacle connecting these.

The type species and apparently the sole American representative of this genus is:

**Sphenomeris clavata** (L.) Maxon

*Adiantum clavatum* L. Sp. Pl. 1096. 1753.

*Davallia clavata* J. E. Smith, Mem. Acad. Turin **5**: 415. 1793.

*Stenoloma clavatum* Fée, Gen. Fil. 330. 1852.

*Lindsaya clavata* Mett. Ann. Sci. Nat. IV. **15**: 64. 1861.

*Schizoloma clavatum* Kuhn, Chaetop. 346. 1882.

A large series of specimens of *S. clavata* is at hand from southern peninsular Florida, the Bahamas, Cuba, Porto Rico and Jamaica.

Two common Old World species may also be mentioned: **Sphenomeris retusa** (*Davallia retusa* Cav.) and **Sphenomeris chinensis** (*Adiantum chinense* L.), both agreeing closely with *S. clavata* in habit.