

## THOMPSONELLA, A NEW GENUS OF CRASSULACEAE FROM MEXICO.

By N. L. BRITTON and J. N. ROSE.

In 1905 *Echeveria minutiflora* first bloomed in cultivation. It flowered in the Missouri Botanical Garden, the New York Botanical Garden, and one of the greenhouses of the Department of Agriculture in Washington at the same time. It was studied independently by the writers and Mr. C. H. Thompson, and all reached the conclusion that it represented a distinct generic type. Material has repeatedly flowered since that time, and now we feel justified in proposing this new genus, named in honor of Charles Henry Thompson of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

In 1907 Mr. C. G. Pringle collected a second species, which flowered in the spring of 1908. This is described below.

Mr. Thompson has had under observation for several years two very distinct species, one of which is probably *T. minutiflora* and the other an undescribed species. It seems best not to describe this species at present, but to wait until further field work has been done. Several years ago a plant bloomed in Washington which seemed to suggest a fourth species, but as there is some doubt as to place of collection it seems best to delay the publication of this also. The genus with two species is described as follows:

### **Thompsonella** Britton & Rose.

Acaulescent: basal leaves few, spreading, thick, oblong; inflorescence a loose simple spike or in large specimens more or less compound; sepals 5, turgid, erect, clavate; corolla somewhat angled in the bud, rotate, the tube proper very short, the lobes lanceolate, spreading horizontally or somewhat deflexed between the sepals; stamens 10, erect, about as long as the petals; carpels erect, constricted at base; styles slender; scales minute.

Type species *Echeveria minutiflora* Rose.

The inflorescence is very unlike any other in this family which we have yet studied. The flowers are arranged in spirals of three and are not strictly axillary, but stand, though directly over, at some distance above the subtending bract; they are very unlike those of all the true *Echeverias* in having a strictly rotate corolla and thinner petals.

**Thompsonella minutiflora** (Rose) Britton & Rose.

PLATE XLIV.

*Echeveria minutiflora* Rose, Bull. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 3: 9. 1903.

Flowering stems glaucous, clothed with thick but reduced leaves; basal leaves acute or obtuse, often strikingly purplish, glaucous; inflorescence either a simple equilateral spike or a very narrow panicle; sepals acute, distinct, narrow, thickened and nearly terete above; corolla segments a little longer than the sepals, red tinged with green, troughed above.

Distribution Puebla and Oaxaca.

Redescribed from specimens flowering in the greenhouses of Washington and New York, October, 1905.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XLIV.—Fig. *a*, plant; *b*, cross section of basal leaf; *c*, cross section of stem leaf; *d*, cross section of sepal; *e*, flower; *f*, carpels; *g*, petals and stamens. Figs. *a* to *d*, natural size; *e* to *g*, scale 3.

**Thompsonella platyphylla** Rose, sp. nov.

PLATE XLV.

Basal leaves oblanceolate, 8 to 12 cm. long, 3 to 4 cm. broad, narrowed at base into a broad, thick petiole, acute when young, glaucous and with purple margins, in age obtusish and green; flowering stem 20 cm. long, glaucous, naked below, bearing 3 small leaves below the inflorescence; inflorescence a narrow panicle; sepals glaucous, thick, almost terete, distinctly united at base; petals longer than the sepals, 6 mm. long, acute.

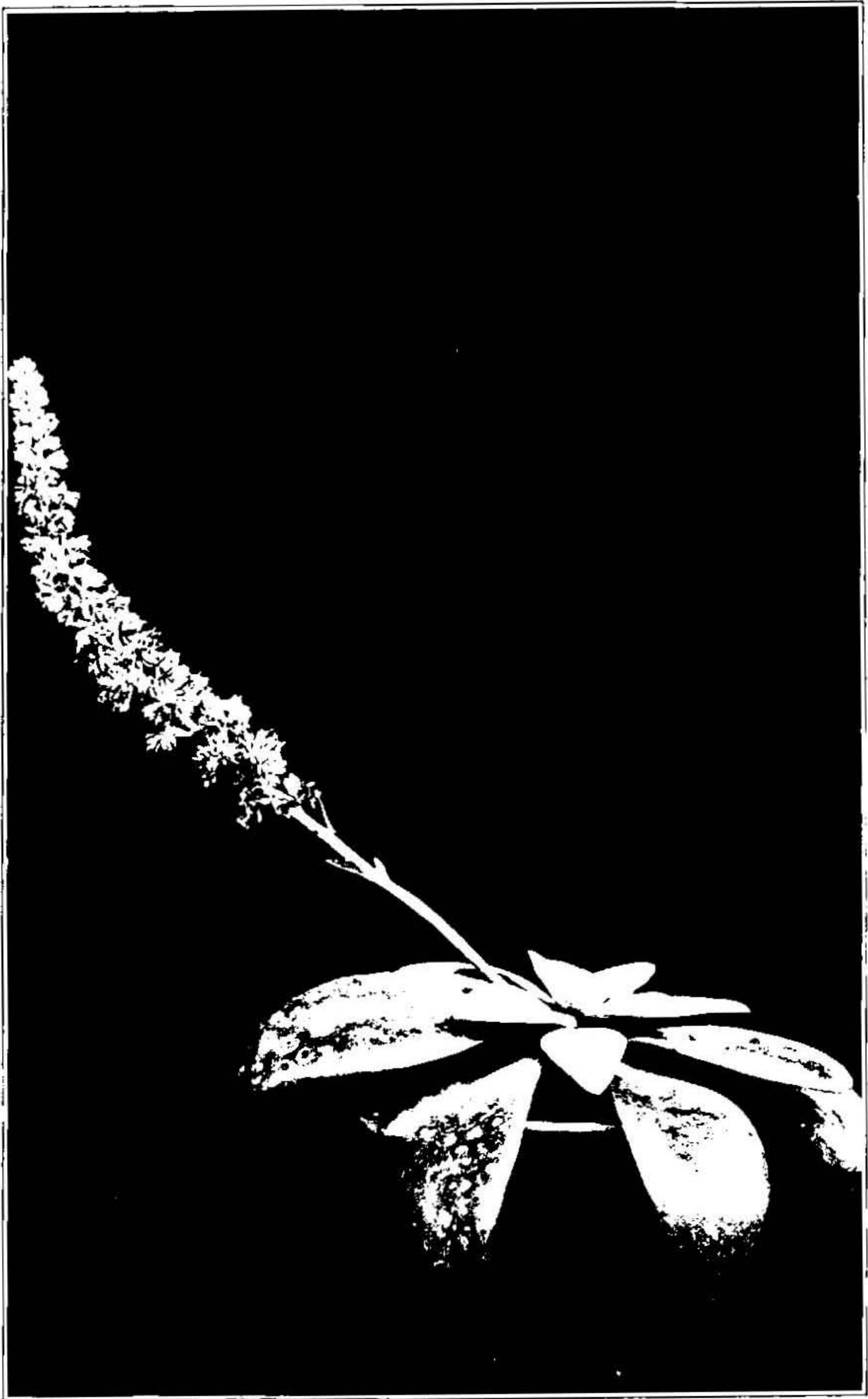
Collected by C. G. Pringle in Iguala Cañon, Guerrero, Mexico, in July, 1907, and described from specimens which flowered in Washington early in 1908.

Type U. S. National Herbarium no. 574982.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XLV.—A potted plant. Scale about  $\frac{1}{2}$ .



THOMPSONELLA MINUTIFLORA (ROSE) BRITTON & ROSE.



THOMSONEEA FLATYLLIFERA ROSE.