

## REDISCOVERY OF *CEREUS NUDIFLORUS*.

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By J. N. ROSE.

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About 1854 Charles Wright collected in Cuba a tree cactus which Dr. George Engelmann described in 1869 as *Cereus nudiflorus*. Since its publication, so far as I can learn, this species has not until recently been re-collected, and has received very little further notice. Engelmann himself published nothing additional upon it, and the name fails to appear at all in the index to his "Botanical Works." The name is also entirely overlooked by the "Kew Index." Schumann, in his "Monograph of the Cactaceae," merely refers the species to *Cereus lepidotus*. Material lately collected, however, places the species in full light and vindicates its claims to independent standing. In the spring of 1907 Mr. William R. Maxon was detailed by the U. S. National Museum to carry on botanical explorations in eastern Cuba, with verbal instructions to pay especial attention to the Cactaceae. This work was carried on with much enthusiasm and thoroughness, and one of the results was the collection of a fine series of specimens of *Cereus nudiflorus*. A number of cuttings were sent to Washington, but these unfortunately rotted during shipment.

Flowers were preserved in alcohol, however, good herbarium specimens were obtained, and arrangements were made for obtaining additional material and photographs. Soon after Mr. Maxon's return Mr. Theodore Brooks, of Guantanamo, sent him a photograph of an old tree taken in the winter of 1888-1889 near Novaliches not far from Caños. Unfortunately this photograph is too much faded to admit of reproduction. It is of interest as showing not only the tree, which is a very large one, but the figure of Baron Eggers standing near it. The species is thus shown to have been known to Baron Eggers, but whether or not he actually collected specimens I do not know. Again in August, 1906, Mr. Brooks sent two negatives and two prints of a tree 8 meters high, in fruit, found at Los Caños. One of the prints is here reproduced. He also sent, in sections, two mature fruits, one of which has been reconstructed and photographed for reproduction here. This seems to be the first time the fruit has ever been preserved

in a scientific collection. Mr. Brooks also promised to send seed later. Besides Mr. Brooks's contributions Mr. Maxon received from Mr. Jennings S. Cox, of Santiago de Cuba, in July, 1907, 4 photographs representing different views of a tree of this species, one of which is here reproduced.

*Cereus nudiflorus* Engelm. in Sauvalle, *Anales Acad. Cienc. Habana* 6: 98. 1869.<sup>a</sup> PLATES XLIX, L, LI.

A large tree, often 7 meters high, much branched; trunk long-cylindrical with a solid wood core; young branches weak, strongly 3 or 4-winged or angled, with a very slender woody axis and made up of numerous short joints; ribs or wings very thin, 4 to 5 cm. deep, the margin strongly undulate, with the areoles 5 to 6 cm. apart; areoles large, with very short wool, at first spineless, later developing one or two spines (these sometimes 4 cm. long, slender, but stiff) or in very old areoles 10 or more; ovary and tube of flower cylindrical, about 10 cm. long, 2 cm. in diameter, the fleshy walls tough and firm, bearing few or no bracts, glabrous and spineless; petals small, perhaps not more than 4 cm. long, white; stamens numerous, borne at the top of the corolla tube; style thick and fleshy; fruit smooth, greenish, globular or a little longer than broad, 8 to 10 cm. long, with a very thick, tough rind (10 to 15 mm. thick); seeds 3 mm. long, brownish, roughened, truncate at base.

Described from specimens collected by Wm. R. Maxon in eastern Cuba in 1907, with notes furnished by Mr. Maxon, and from fruit sent by Theodore Brooks in 1908 from the same region.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES XLIX, L, LI.—Plate XLIX, view of tree. From a photograph sent by Mr. Cox of a specimen which grew at Daiquiri, east of Santiago de Cuba. Plate L, view of tree. From one of the photographs furnished by Mr. Brooks of a specimen at Los Caños. Plate LI, two fruits sent by Mr. Brooks, one of them in sections. Natural size.

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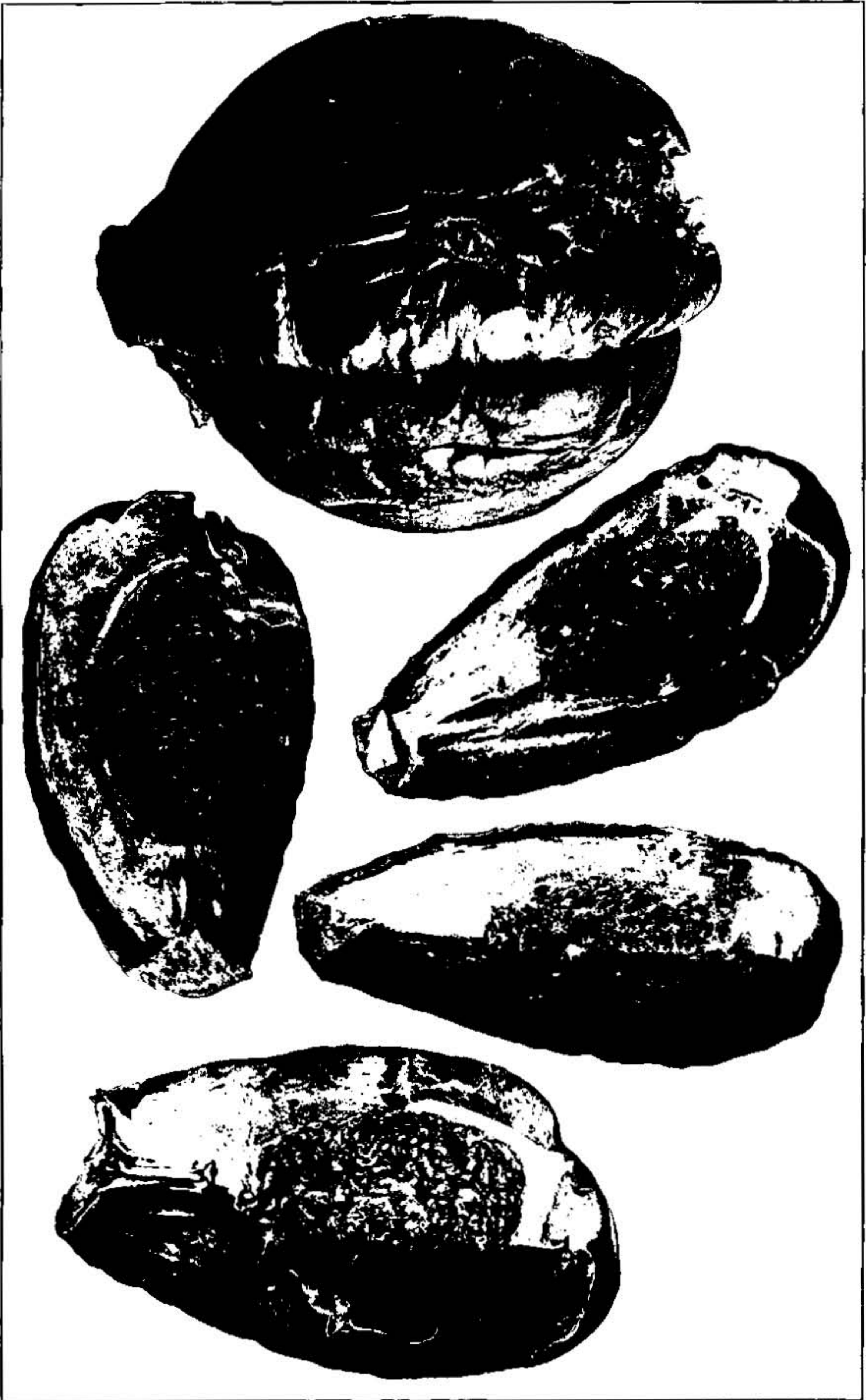
<sup>a</sup> The parts of Sauvalle's work, issued serially, were collected in 1873 as *Flora Cubana*. See Hitchcock, *Contr. Nat. Herb.* 12: 184, 1908.



CEREUS NUDIFLORUS ENGELM.



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FRUIT OF *CEREUS NUDIFLORUS* ENGELM.