



ASPLENIUM MICROTUM MAXON.

A NEW SPLEENWORT FROM CHINA.

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The Chinese fern here described as new was detected several years ago in the course of a study of *Asplenium trichomanes* and its allies. Its relationship is discussed below.

Asplenium microtum Maxon, sp. nov.

PLATE LX.

Rhizome suberect, 5 to 7 mm. in diameter, thickly beset with rigid linear-lanceolate dark brownish scales about 2 mm. in length; fronds few (4 to 8), cespitose, divergent, subarcuate, 15 to 20 cm. long; stipes dull purplish black, flexuose, 2 to 3 cm. long; lamina 12 to 17 cm. long, 11 to 13.5 mm. broad, linear; pinnae subcoriaceous, deciduous, 25 to 32-jugate, mostly opposite or subopposite, approximate or their width apart, gradually reduced both above and below; characteristic middle pinnae 6 to 7 mm. long, sessile, subrhombic to oblong, the base appearing (in dried specimens) narrowly long-cuneate, somewhat excised below, auriculate above, the apex rounded, the margins lightly crenate-sinuate, revolute in drying; lower pinnae shorter, broader, decidedly auriculate, somewhat reflexed, easily deciduous, the lowermost 2 or 3 distant, greatly reduced, subalternate or alternate, a minute, persistent bud with conspicuous chaff borne commonly at the base of the last or next to the last; stipe and rachis narrowly alate, the wing conspicuously erose-dentate or even serrate; sori medial, linear-oblong, usually 6 (in 3 pairs) or 7, the odd one in the upper row; indusia ample, firm, glabrous, the margin lightly sinuate; spores dark brown, ovoid, somewhat cristate, conspicuously alate and reticulate.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, no. 455004; from Mengtse, Yunnan, China, *A. Henry* (no. 10344). The same number in the herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Garden bears the additional data: "s. w. mts., alt. 6000 ft."

Mentioned by Christ,^a some time ago, under the name *Asplenium trichomanes*, as a form "with distant strongly auriculate pinnae." *A. microtum* is, apparently, a near relative of *A. trichomanes*; but from this, which, in a typical state at least, seems to be confined to North America and Europe, it differs very noticeably in (1) its subcoriaceous texture, (2) its auriculate pinnae, these narrowly cuneate at the base (really less so than appears in the dried plants), (3) its strongly revolute and lightly crenate-sinuate margins, and (4) the presence of a minute but very chaffy bud upon the rachis, near its base. This last is a character noted hitherto, in the group of *Asplenium trichomanes*, only in *A. platyneuron* and *A. monanthes*; in the former very rarely; in the latter commonly, sometimes near the base, but often in the apical portion. A Mexican species of this group, as yet undescribed, has the fronds radican and proliferous at the very apex.

For the drawing herewith reproduced the writer is indebted to Dr. H. D. House, of the Biltmore Forest School.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE LX.—*a*, Plant; *b*, segment of a frond. *a*, Natural size; *b*, scale 2.

^a Bull. Herb. Boiss. 6: 960. 1898.