

A new *Asplenium* from Mexico*

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For nearly twenty years the specimen described below has lain among the undetermined material of *Asplenium* in the United States National Herbarium. Recent studies in this genus have failed to discover any species to which it may be referred, and the writer has come to the conclusion that it represents a species hitherto unnoticed. It may be known as:

Asplenium modestum sp. nov.

Fronde 5, about 8 cm. high, borne from a stoutish suberect rhizome: stipes 0.5–2.3 cm. long, naked, greenish, sulcate: laminae 4.5–6 cm. long by 1.5 cm. broad, somewhat coriaceous, oblong-lanceolate, with six to eight pairs of subopposite to alternate, distant to close-set, short-stalked pinnae; pinnae ovate-deltoid to irregularly rectangular, broadly excised below, the lowermost pinnately parted into three cuneate lobes (the superior, and in some cases the inferior, quite free), which in turn are deeply and sharply cleft, the margins thus coarsely and unequally fimbriate; succeeding pinnae less deeply parted, commonly only the superior lobe free; venation obscure, subflabellate-pinnate: sori rather short, two or three to each lobe; indusia suberose, partially concealed by the mature sporangia.

Founded upon a single sheet, no. 27674, in the United States National Herbarium, collected in southwestern Chihuahua, Mexico, August to November, 1885, by Dr. Edward Palmer (no. 162). The type sheet bears two plants, one fully mature which may stand as the type, and a second plant which though very young is without doubt the same.



Asplenium modestum, natural size.

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Asplenium modestum is apparently an aberrant member of the *lanceolatum* group of Hooker and Baker's Synopsis Filicum, its nearest Mexican allies being, perhaps, *A. micropteron* Baker and *A. Glenniei* Baker, the latter hardly distinct from the Asiatic *A. exiguum* Bedd. From these, however, it differs conspicuously in many particulars, but notably in its wholly green stipes and in its broad divided pinnae, the lowermost scarcely at all reduced. The flabellate aspect of the pinnae is pronounced and should serve at once to distinguish the species.

The writer is indebted to Mr. H. D. House for the accompanying drawing, which represents at natural size one of the five fronds of the type-specimen before mentioned.

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