



BYRNESIA WEINBERGII

(Plate 243)

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Weinberg's Stonecrop

Native country unknown

Family CRASSULACEÆ

ORPINE Family

Echeveria Weinbergii Hort.; *Theodosia* B. Shepherd, Descript. Cat. 37. 1912.*Cotyledon paraguayensis* N. E. Brown, Kew Bull. Misc. Inf. 1914: 208. 1914.*Byrnesia* Weinbergii* Rose.

Among the *Crassulaceae* are many striking ornamentals, some of which have long been favorites for carpet-bedding or where formal figures or letters are desired. Many new species, some with lurid leaves forming compact rosettes, have recently been introduced from Mexico and will be desirable additions to our gardens. In 1907, while we were carrying on studies in this family, we received a very strange plant of unknown source. In its habit it closely resembled the *echeverias* of Mexico but the flowers were very different. The plant is an extremely shy bloomer, flowering only once in Washington (December 1909) and once in the New York Botanical Garden (February 1921) during the fifteen years we have had it under observation.

Our specimen came through Frank Weinberg, along with some Paraguay plants, but he afterwards told us that he knew nothing of its origin. We have written and sent specimens to many persons in America and Europe seeking information regarding it. As a result of this free distribution of specimens two new names have been applied to it without furnishing any information regarding its native land!

One of our correspondents, Alwin Berger, writes of this plant as follows:

"The fine *Crassulacea* of which you enclose a photo was sent to me as *Echeveria arizonica* a year or two ago. I have no idea of its origin. It is neither an *Echeveria* nor a *Cotyledon*; neither can it be called a *Sedum* but it comes very near this genus. I do not believe that it comes from Paraguay; it looks like a Mexican

* *Byrnesia* gen. nov.

A perennial herb, at first acaulescent but in time becoming caulescent; leaves forming a terminal rosette, fleshy, oblanceolate, pointed; inflorescence cymose; sepals 5, green, glaucous; limb of corolla spreading, the lobes 5, white, united at base; stamens 10, at first erect, afterwards spreading; carpels 5, erect, reddish.

plant. I am very fond of the plant for the fine color of the leaves and for its easy propagation."

It is easily propagated from leaf plantings.

In its technical characters this genus comes close to *Graptopetalum* but in its habit and leaves it resembles more the genus *Echeveria*, differing from it chiefly in its corolla. It is named for Edward M. Byrnes, for many years Superintendent and now Assistant in Charge, Experiment Gardens and Grounds, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., whose landscape work there has added so much to the beauty and usefulness of this park.

Weinberg's stonecrop is at first without a stem but in time becomes five to seven inches long with a rosette of leaves at the top. These leaves are thick and broad with a flat or somewhat incurved upper face, more or less apiculate; the inflorescence is a few-branched cyme, coming from the axils of upper leaves. The corolla is rotate, the five parts being united into a short tube; the stamens are ten, spreading; the carpels are five.

J. N. ROSE.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE. Fig. 1.—Flowering plant. Fig. 2.—Single flower, cut open.