

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW CLOAK-FERN FROM MEXICO.

BY WILLIAM R. MAXON.

By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Among the plants collected in Mexico by Mr. C. G. Pringle in 1904 is the following undescribed fern which we regard as one of the most clearly marked species discovered in recent years:

Notholaena bryopoda sp. nov.

A plant of medium size, the rigid fronds 8 to 20 cm. long, borne rather closely from a fasciculate bulbiform rhizome thickly covered by bristly ferruginous chaff with entire margins and with a darker median line: stipe 3 to 8 cm. long, seal brown, sinuose, slightly furrowed above, scantily clothed with deciduous narrow attenuate chaff somewhat darker than that of the rhizome: lamina 5 to 12 cm. long, lanceolate, coriaceous, for the most part only bipinnate, both primary and secondary rachises channelled upon the upper surface; pinnae lanceolate, exactly alternate throughout, dull greenish and devoid of glandular or ceraceous covering upon the upper surface, the larger ones about 2.5 cm. long with seven or eight pairs of mainly simple narrowly oblong sessile pinnulae, only the two or three lowermost pinnulae being pinnate with one or two pairs of small narrow sessile segments; margins strongly revolute, partially concealing the blackish sporangia at maturity by a dense coating of pale yellowish ceraceous powder, subsequently somewhat reflexed.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, sheet No. 461,305; collected from "chalky banks at base of Sierra de San Lazaro, altitude 7,500 ft., State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico; November 7, 1904; C. G. Pringle, No. 8802." Known only from the type collection.

Notholaena bryopoda is without any near Mexican allies. From *N. Pringlei* Davenp.,* the only species with which it might be confused, it differs in nearly every essential feature; especially in the peculiar character and vestiture of the rhizome, in the entire absence of any ceraceous covering upon the upper surface, and in the larger and elongate segments. Its most distinctive characters lie in the greatly enlarged and clustered rootstocks, which with their thick tufts of ferruginous chaff closely simulate those of *N. sinuata* (Sw.) Kaulf. The likeness of these to certain tufted dicranoid mosses has suggested the specific name here employed.

* Bull. Torrey Club 13 : 132. pt. 58. 1886.