

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

A NEW FERN FROM PORTO RICO.

BY WILLIAM R. MAXON.

By permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

---

The name *Aspidium Krugii* Kuhn is cited by Krug at page 112 of Engler's *Botanische Jahrbücher*, volume 24, 1897, under *Aspidium rhizophyllum*, as having been given to seven numbers of Porto Rican specimens collected by Sintenis and distributed among various herbaria. Apparently Kuhn had thought his plant distinct; and its reference to the well-known Jamaican *A. rhizophyllum* was probably due to the fact that certain of his unpublished notes and manuscripts, which largely formed the basis of Krug's paper on West Indian ferns, passed through the hands of Dr. Christ, and that the latter's judgment was followed.

In naming a collection of Porto Rican ferns not long ago we perceived the Porto Rican plant to be readily distinguishable from its near ally, and we purpose to so regard it. The name *Aspidium Krugii* having been merely listed can not be regarded as published.

***Polystichum Krugii* sp. nov.**

Differs from *P. rhizophyllum* in its thinner texture, manifest venation, very much shorter stipes, longer and narrower fronds, pinnae narrower and less obtuse (the upper ones greatly reduced but mostly distinct), and especially in having the fructification confined to the greatly elongated (10-12 cm.) linear caudate apex and the first pair or two of minute pinnae.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, No. 40,035, being No. 2240 of Sintenis' Porto Rican plants; collected at Cayey, October 5, 1885. The type specimen is the only representative in the National Herbarium of the several numbers cited by Krug. Other Porto Rican specimens are: Goll, No. 342, and Heller, Nos. 536 and 6095. A single Cuban plant in the D. C. Eaton herbarium we also refer here.

Of the true *P. rhizophyllum*\* we have seen excellent specimens from Jamaica, the type locality; and the illustration of a Jamaican plant by Hooker and Greville † is thoroughly characteristic of these. The comparatively short broad tapering apices, as figured, offer a very noticeable difference to the uniformly linear long-attenuate extremities of *P. Krugii*. The Guadeloupe plant cited by Krug (l. c.) under *rhizophyllum* we have not seen.

---

\* *Polystichum rhizophyllum* (Sw.) Presl, Tent. Pterid. 82. 1836.

*Polypodium rhizophyllum* Sw. Prodr. Veg. Ind. Occ. 132. 1788.

*Aspidium rhizophyllum* Sw. Schrad. Journ. Bot. 18002: 31. 1801.

† Hooker and Greville, Icones Filicum 1: pl. 59. 1829.