

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW DRYOPTERIS FROM DOMINICA.¹

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The following new species is one of a small lot of ferns recently collected by Prof. L. H. Bailey in the island of Dominica and submitted to the writer for identification.

Dryopteris mollicella Maxon, sp. nov.

Rhizome suberect, curved, 4 cm. long, nearly 1 cm. thick, with copious coarse roots, closely paleaceous at the included apex, the scales 2.5 to 4 mm. long, narrowly ovate-oblong, acuminate, bright brown, thin, minutely grayish-strigose, entire. Fronds 7 or 8, 20 to 30 cm. long, ascending, borne in a close crown; stipes very short (2 to 3 cm. long), dull olivaceous, densely grayish-puberulous, the hairs very short, stiff, pointed, mostly retrorse; blades pinnate-pinnatifid, lance-elliptic, 18 to 28 cm. long, 6 to 8 cm. broad near the middle, long-acuminate at apex (the tip subcaudate), rather abruptly narrowed at base, with 4 or 5 pairs of reduced pinnae, the lowermost ones vestigial; rachis paler than the stipe, similarly puberulous; larger (medial) pinnae alternate, spreading, 1.5 cm. apart, narrowly oblong, 3 to 4 cm. long, 8 to 10 mm. broad, sessile, slightly falcate toward the long-acuminate subentire apex, symmetrical, pinnatifid to within 1 or 1.5 mm. of the costa; costa elevated above, sulcate, densely hispidulous-strigose, elevated beneath only toward the base, freely and minutely puberulous; upper leaf surface copiously yellowish-strigose throughout, the hairs pointed, glistening, extending to the ciliolate margins; lower leaf surface evenly short-puberulous throughout (the hairs whitish, spreading) and sparingly glandulose, the glands small, globose, yellowish-hyaline, subsistent; segments 10 or 12 pairs, subequal, slightly oblique, close, oblong, 2 to 2.5 mm. broad, rounded-obtuse (or slightly pointed distally), membranous, plane, dull green; veins simple, 4 or 5 pairs, very oblique (less than 45°), extending to the margin, slightly elevated, whitish in the outer part; sori small, 3 or 4 pairs, medial; sporangia few, non-setose; indusium very small but persistent, consisting mainly of a tuft of white setiform hairs.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, No. 1,049,536, collected in the island of Dominica, British West Indies, April, 1922, by L. H. Bailey (No. 771). A second, less fertile specimen is in Professor Bailey's herbarium.

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In Christensen's monograph of *Dryopteris* this species runs directly to a small group (in the subgenus *Lastrea*) in which the blade is short-attenuate at the base (Type I), with a few pairs of reduced pinnae, the sporangia non-setose, the leaf tissue membrano-herbaceous, and the rachis densely puberulous with very short hairs; that is, the subgroup of *D. nockiana* (Jenman) C. Chr., containing five Andine and West Indian species. Of these it is related closely only to *D. muzensis* Hieron., of Colombia, which it resembles especially in its copiously short-strigose upper surfaces and vestigial pilose indusia. It differs from *D. muzensis* strongly in its lesser size, small, close segments, fewer and more oblique veins (half as many per segment as in *D. muzensis*), and uniform short whitish puberulous covering beneath, the hairs of the costae and costules not strongly oblique or appressed as in *D. muzensis*.