

A New Species of *Miconia* from St. Vincent in the Lesser Antilles.

By
KAREL DOMIN.

(With plate.)

When studying in Kew the *Melastomaceae* from Dominica I naturally had to compare specimens from other islands of the Lesser Antilles. In doing so I came across an interesting, hitherto unknown species of *Miconia* from St. Vincent the description of which follows.

Miconia caribaea n. sp.

Habitu *M. striatae* formas grandifolias revocans; arbor parva elegans; ramuli minute furfuracei, tantum juveniles strato furfuraceo tenui oblecti, demum glabrescentes; folia magna, membranacea, potius tenuia, conspicue discolora, supra opaca, subtus pallide viridia, longepetiolata; petioli circa 2—5 cm longi, supra sulcati, parce furfuracei vel glabrescentes; laminae magnae lataeque, ovato-ellipticae, distincte acuminatae, in foliis majoribus (28 cm longis et 13 cm latis) basi rotundatae, in foliis mediocribus (15—18 cm longis et 5½—7 cm latis) basi obtuse subcuneatae, margine (tantum acumine ipso excepto) distincte et sat grosse simpliciter vel in laminis majoribus duplo sinuato-dentatae, semper quinquenerviae, adultae primo aspectu glaberrimae, sed sub lente praesertim subtus minutissime et sparse albidulo-furfuraceae; paniculae terminales pyramidatae, folia suprema minora vix superantes, nunc breviores et ovato-pyramidales, nunc longiores (usque 11 cm longae) et laxiflorae; inflorescentiae rhachis ramique graciles, juventute parce pulverulenti, sed sub lente praesertim subtus minutissime et sparse albidulo-furfuraceae; pedicelli graciles, glabri, 3—4 mm longi; calyx campanulato-turbinatus, distincte decemstriatus, perpaucae pulverulentus, demum glabrescens, limbo in sicco pallidiore truncato, subirregulariter denticulato-lobulato coronatus, 3½ mm in diametro longus; petala alba, obtusa, 6—7 mm longa; filamenta antheris paulum vel vix breviora, minutissime pilosiuscula; antherae lineares, elongatae, 4 mm vel paulo ultra longae, poro apicali dehiscentes, basi minute glandulosa haud productae sed tantum breviter bilobae; stylus minutissime pilosulus, apice incurvo et truncato parum incrassatus, circa 8 mm longus, stamina haud superans; baccae globosae, apice truncatae et calycis limbo subinvolutae distincte coronatae, costis decem crassis et valde prominulis striatae, diametro circa 5 mm metientes.

Habitat in Antillarum Minorum insula St. Vincent: arbor parva valde communis in silvis altitudine 1000 ped. prope Sandy Bay (in litore ventis exposito) ad insulae terminum septentrionalem et ex collectoribus etiam in silvis supra Kingstown altitudine 1500 ped. frequens; H. H. et G. W. SMITH 1889 no 820! (Typus in herbario Kewensi).

Species optime distincta, inter omnes Antillarum species habitu *Miconiae striatae* (VAHL.) Cogn. similis, sed differt praesertim foliis multo majoribus, margine grosse sinuato-dentatis, quinquenerviis, calycis limbo truncato et tantum sinuato-pluridentato vel plurilobulo (nec distincte in lobulos majusculos 2—3 rumpente).

Characteribus datis species nostra in sectionem *Lacerariam* NAUD. (cf. *Cogniaux* MELAST. p. 762, 1891) haud bene quadrat et potius in sectionem *Tamonea* Cogn. inserenda. Sed generis *Miconiae* sectiones valde artificiales specierum affinitatem veram haud ostendere persuasum habeo.

Miconia striata (VAHL.) Cogn., a species rather widely distributed in the Lesser Antilles (Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Vincent, Grenada) but very doubtfully distinct from *M. cornifolia* (DES.) Naud., is represented in St. Vincent by its usual form as well as the following interesting variety:

M. striata (VAHL.) Cogn. var. *vincentina* v. n.

Glaberrima, ramulis tantum minutissime puberulo-punctatis; folia membranacea, petiolata, in sicco lutescentia; laminae elongato-oblongae, angustae, utrinque angustatae, apice obtuse acuminatae, triplinerviae, integerrimae, margine vix undulatae, majores 13 cm longae et 2.5 cm latae, minores circa 8 cm longae et 1.5 cm latae; panicula corymboso-dilatata. Habitat in insula St. Vincent prope Dry River haud procul maris litore, fruticosa, 10 pedes alta, H. H. et G. W. SMITH 1889 no 724! (Typus in herbario Kewensi).

According to the collectors remark this peculiar and very striking form grew with the typical form and only a single specimen was observed. The collectors suggest that it may be a narrow-leaved variety of their number 724! which grew abundantly on the same locality. It is a shrub 10 to 15 fl. high and common on the windward side, closely allied to No. 72 (*M. striata*) but in the field easily recognised by its narrower and thicker leaves and crimson calyx.



Miconia caribaea DOM. Type Specimen.

($\frac{1}{4}$ nat. size.)

