

STUDIES IN THE GESNERIACEAE OF THE OLD WORLD

XVII: A NEW SPECIES OF LINNAEOPSIS

B. L. BURTT

Linnaeopsis subscandens B. L. Burtt, *species nova* in hoc genere habitu valde distincta; foliis acute serratis et apice acutis, nervis lateralibus inconspicuis etiam ab aliis speciebus recedit.

Herba fruticosa subscandens, ramulis dense et appresse villosis. *Folia* plerumque alterna, petiolo 2-3 cm. longo appresse villosa; lamina ovata, 4-5 cm. longa, 2.5-3.5 cm. lata, basi abrupte angustata, apice acuta, marginibus argute serratis, utrinque pilis brevibus parce (subtus ad nervos densius) strigoso-pubescentibus, nervis utrinsecus 5-7 arcuatis. *Pedunculi* axillares, solitarii vel bini, appresse villosi, plus minusve 5 cm. longi ad bracteas primas lineares villosas 3 mm. longas; flores per paria cymosi, pedicellis primorum c. 8 mm. longis. *Calyx* ad basin in segmenta lineari-lanceolata 3.5 mm. longa villosa divisus. *Corolla* extra parce glanduloso-pubescentibus, intra glabra, tubo 5.5 mm. longo late et paulo oblique campanulato, quinquelobata; lobus anterior 5 mm. longus et latus; anterolaterales 6 mm. longi et 4 mm. lati; postero-laterales 3.5 mm. longi et 3 mm. lati. *Discus* conspicuus, aurantiacus. *Filamenta* ima basi corollae inserta, 2.5 mm. longa; glabra, leviter curvata; antherae vix 1 mm. longae et 1.75 mm. latae, coram cohaerentes. *Ovarium* conicum, villosum, 1.5 mm. longum; stylus 4 mm. longus dimidio inferiore glanduloso-pubescentibus, superne glaber.

TANGANYIKA: Uluguru Mts. Lupanga Peak, 1950 m., shrubby herb, fls. white drooping attractive, Aug. 1951, Eggeling 6273 (holo. EA, K). Nordwestseite, Nebelwald, 1950 m., strauchartig zwischen anderen Sträuchern, häufig, Blüte weiss, 8 Nov. 1932, Schlieben 2936 (BR, BM, M).

In leaf and habit this has nothing of the look of *Linnaeopsis heckmanniana* Engl., the type species of the genus. On herbarium sheets it has also been variously referred to *Saintpaulia* or *Streptocarpus*, and I have retained the epithet which Dr. Mansfeld had once thought to give it in the former genus. However, it cannot be placed there, for *Saintpaulia* does have a distinctive corolla form with a short tube and conspicuous flat limb at right angles to it: that of *L. subscandens* is quite at variance, the tube being broad and obliquely campanulate and the lobes small and directed forwards. Although I have seen no perfect fruits, both specimens have some dead remnants persisting, and these still show the marginal ribs; there is no sign of twisting and *Streptocarpus* is therefore excluded from consideration.

In floral characters *L. subscandens* is in fact a very typical *Linnaeopsis*, and it is interesting to note how similar the flowers are to those of *L. heckmanniana*, *L. gracilis* and *L. alba* despite the wide divergence in leaves and habit. That a somewhat similar corolla-form occurs in *Streptocarpus*

bullatus, *S. montanus* and some allied species is an interesting point, and it greatly increases the difficulty of dealing with flowering material. As yet, however, we have no means of evaluating the taxonomic importance of this feature.

The Genus *Mammillaria* (review)*.—In this book the author has compiled a dictionary of more than 700 names which have appeared at some time under the genus *Mammillaria*. Of these, more than 300 are described in detail, with classification, habitat and most valuable cultural recommendations, while some 200 are transferred to other genera. The remainder includes many synonyms and reference to a large number of species which exist only as catalogue names without adequate description.

It is well known that there is no existing work on the genus which combines simple description of the species grown in this country with detailed advice on their cultivation and Mr. Marsden is to be congratulated on the amount of extremely valuable information in his book. At the same time one regrets that no real attempt is made to assist the gardener to identify his species, bearing in mind the size of the genus and the frequency with which one receives incorrectly named plants. In the introduction a summary is given of Borg's classification of the genus into two main sections comprising ten series, and while in the text some 200 species are thus classified individually, they are not arranged under these series and there is no synopsis of the species contained in each group. Nor does the index differentiate between species and synonyms.

Six plates in colour and nineteen in black and white illustrate twenty-two species and six of the ten series. These undoubtedly might have been more representative and a page reference to plates in the text would have been an advantage. There are two plates of *Mammillaria bella* (now referred to the genus *Escobaria*), four of *M. hahniana* and its varieties, and a plate of *Mammillaria schwartziana* (in the text re-classified as *Coryphantha schwartziana*). One wonders if the plates of *M. querreroni* var. *subhamala* and *M. zapilotensis* have been transposed and why, when the latter plant is obviously flowering, the flowers have not yet been described. The practice of enclosing the name of the authority of a species in parenthesis when there is no secondary citation is open to criticism but this and other points are really minor in comparison with the practical horticultural value of the information contained in this book.

C. W. MUIRHEAD.

* *Mammillaria*, by C. Marsden. London, Cleaver Hume Press, 1957. Pp. 407, 25 photographs (6 coloured) on 9 plates. Price thirty-five shillings.