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Curtis's botanical magazine

London, Academic Press [etc.],

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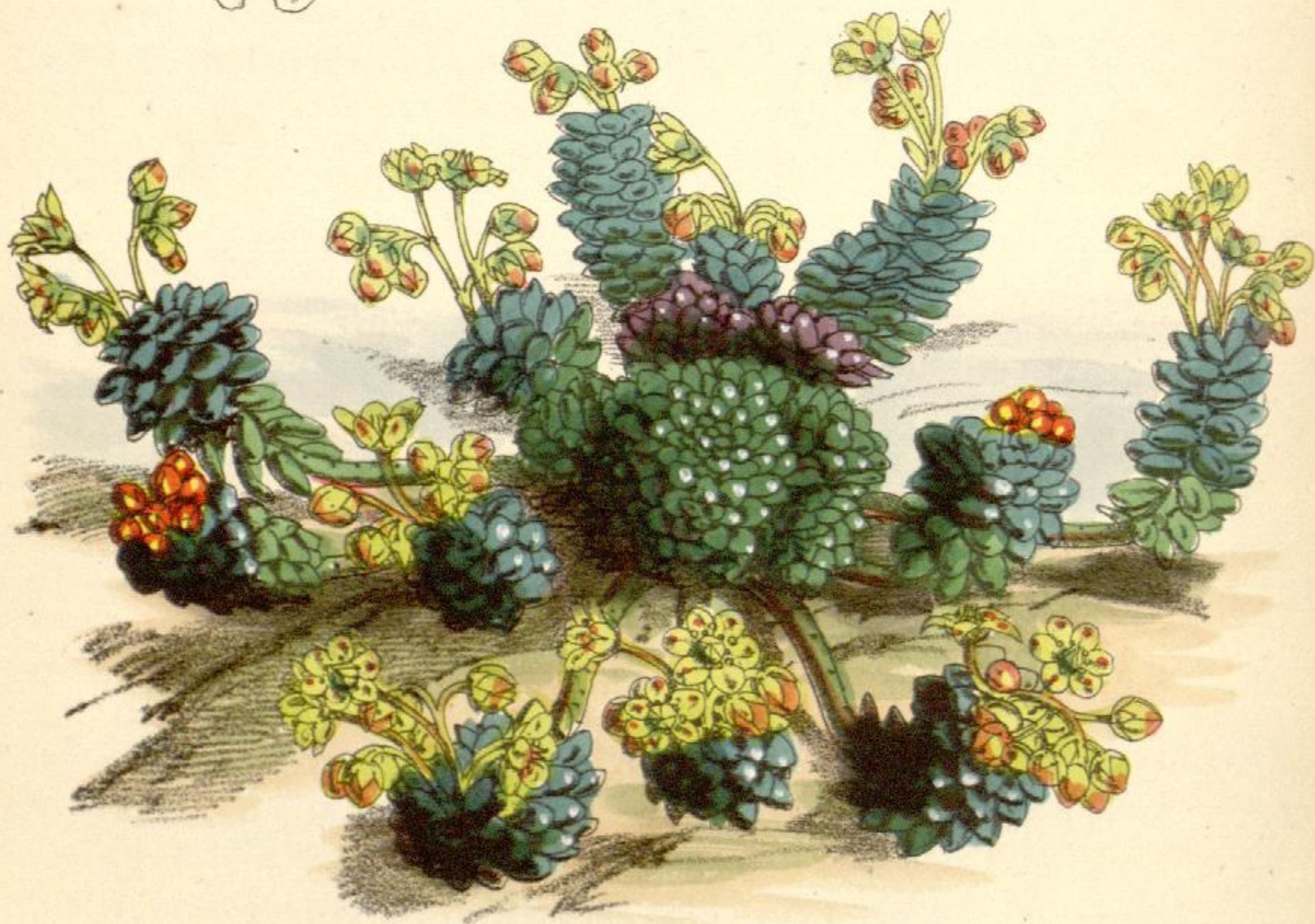
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MONANTHES MURALIS.

Native of Marocco and the Canaries.

Nat. Ord. CRASSULACEÆ.

Genus, MONANTHES, *Haw.*; (*Benth. and Hook. f. Gen. Pl.* vol. i. p. 660).

MONANTHES *muralis*; humilis, perennis, fruticulosa, ramis confertis v. e collo diffusis, nudis apicibus adscendentibus dense foliosis succulentis, foliis $\frac{1}{6}$ poll. longis spathulato-obovoideis crasse carnosis subsessilibus glabris sordide viridibus inferioribus purpureo variegatis, pedunculis subterminalibus $\frac{1}{2}$ -pollicaribus 3-6-floris glanduloso-pubescentibus, floribus 6-meris, pedicellis glandulosis, calycis tubo late hemispherico segmentis acutis, petalis ovato-acuminatis aureis dorso sub apice rubro-punctatis, filamentis calycem subæquantibus, antheris rubris, squamis recurvis lamina spathulata crassiuscula emarginata flavis, carpellis semi-ovoideis viridibus apicibus rubris in stylum brevem subulatum attenuatis.

PETROPHYES *muralis*, *Webb. mss. Walp. Ann.* vol. vii. p. 931.

The genus *Monanthes* (or *Petrophyes* of Webb), consists of six species, all natives of the Canary Islands, and supposed to be confined to that singular group, till one of these, the present species, was discovered in the Greater Atlas by my fellow traveller, Mr. Ball, F.R.S., growing on moist rocks at 7000 to 8000 feet elevation on Mount Tezi, south-west of the city of Marocco. As far as I can discover, the Maroccan is identical with the Canarian form, though had I the latter alive to compare it with, differences would, no doubt, be observable; in the colour, and perhaps in the form of some of the organs.

Monanthes is perhaps, too, closely allied to *Sempervivum*, differing in the much more developed scales opposite the carpels, and in the somewhat peculiar habit. The figure is taken from Mount Atlas specimens, brought by myself in June, 1871, which flowered in the Royal Gardens

in April of the present year. In the Canary Islands this species has been found in the Isles of Ferro and Teneriffe, usually on walls but sometimes on rocks.

DESCR. A small tufted nearly glabrous shining succulent perennial. *Stems* branched from the base; branches prostrate, one to three inches long, cylindric, naked below, bearing a densely imbricate rosette of twenty to thirty leaves towards the apex. *Leaves* about one-sixth of an inch long, subsessile, spathulate, quite entire, obtuse or emarginate or retuse, succulent, dark green and shining. *Flowers* subsolitary and in short few-flowered subterminal peduncled glandular cymes, a quarter to one-third of an inch in diameter, shortly pedicelled. *Calyx-tube* broadly hemispherical; lobes six, triangular-ovate, acute. *Petals* six, elliptic-ovate, acuminate, golden yellow, speckled with red on the back beneath the tip, which is keeled, twice as long as the calyx, recurved. *Stamens* twelve, filaments dilated; anthers dark-red. *Scales* spathulate, fleshy, yellow, limb recurved, notched. *Carpels* semi-ovoid, turgid at the base, narrowed into short slender red erect styles. *Ovules* three to four in each carpel, ascending from the ventral suture near the base.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1, Portion of stem and leaf; 2, flower; 3, ditto open; 4, base of calyx, scales, and carpels; 5, petal; 6, stamen; 7, scale and transverse section of carpel; 8, vertical section of carpel:—*all magnified.*