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THE
JOURNAL OF BOTANY,
BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

EDITED BY

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VOL. XXXIII.

ILLUSTRATED WITH PLATES AND CUTS.

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LONDON:

WEST, NEWMAN & CO., 54, HATTON GARDEN.

1895.

A NEW VICIA FROM TENERIFE.

BY THE REV. R. P. MURRAY, M.A., F.L.S.

Vicia scandens, n. sp. *V. glabrescens*, caule scandente, intricatissimo, foliis 3-5-jugis, cirrhosis, cirrhis ramosis, foliolis lineari-oblongatis vel linearibus, stipulis hirsutis, lanceolatis, plus minus dentatis; pedunculis quam folia longioribus, multifloris; vexillo angusto, alarum longitudine; ovario stipitato; leguminibus latis, compressis, nervosulis, 4-6-spermis.

Perennial? climbing. Stems glabrescent, angular, furrowed, branched. Leaves with 3-5 pairs of leaflets, cirrhose, tendrils branched. Stipules hairy, lanceolate, toothed at the base (semi-hastate), the upper ones broader, sublaciniate towards the tip. Leaflets $\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., linear-oblongate to linear, obtuse, apiculate, very thinly hairy on both sides, shortly stalked. Flowers $4\frac{1}{2}$ -6 lines, in a second raceme. Peduncle usually exceeding the leaf, many- (6-18) flowered. Calyx subcylindric, gibbous at base, thinly hairy. Teeth very unequal; 2 upper very short, broadly triangular; intermediate triangular-acuminate (nearly equalling the tube); lowest subulate, a little exceeding the tube. Corolla cream-coloured; standard only slightly dilated upwards, about equalling the wings, and slightly exceeding the keel. Pod 1 in. 9 lines to 2 in. long, 4 lines broad, stipitate, gradually narrowed to the base, shortly acuminate at the tip, glabrous, reticulate, much compressed, about 5-seeded. Seeds (immature) about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines in diameter.

The present species differs from *V. cirrhosa* Chr. Sm. in the structure of the calyx (in *V. cirrhosa* the teeth are almost obsolete), and in the much broader and larger pods, which contain larger and fewer seeds; and in other respects. It is, I think, more nearly related to *V. varia* Host, and may possibly be identical with the "*V. dasycarpa* Ten." of the *Phytographia Canariensis*, which Webb once found "in dumetis insulæ Palmæ." I do not know Tenore's plant, but cannot think that the Tenerifan species can be referred to any form of *V. varia*, though the resemblances are certainly striking. One is an annual plant; the other (I believe) perennial: that has a violet standard, this cream-coloured flowers (though I made no note of colour from the fresh plant, and have to trust to memory). More important are the differences in the shape of the upper stipules, and in the characters derived from the pods, which are much longer and less abruptly stipitate in *V. scandens* than in *V. varia*.

The only place where I have seen this plant is the almost precipitous wood fringing the base of the cliffs known as "Los Organos," above Agua Mansa, in the island of Tenerife, at about 4500 ft. above the sea. Here it is extremely luxuriant, and forms one of the greatest ornaments of the vegetation, covering the under-shrubs with a dense mat. It flowers in May and June.

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