

propiedades de las plantas. Esta obra, por ejemplo, nada dice de la importancia medicinal de las Dioscoreas, al presente tan buscadas para la preparación de la cortisona y otras drogas, de gran esperanza para el tratamiento de varias enfermedades.

Sólo las mayores bibliotecas botánicas, tienen sobre sus estantes los numerosos libros que fuera preciso tener a mano, para conseguir los datos aquí concentrados. Aun en ellas, sería preciso gastar mucho tiempo para alcanzar los informes que en este tomo, se puede encontrar, consultando el índice, en pocos minutos. Es un libro de referencia, útil para toda clase de bibliotecas, para consultos técnicos o populares. Parece un texto adecuado para la enseñanza de la botánica económica.

Sus páginas incluyen ciertas referencias bibliográficas pertinentes, si no en el número que fuera de desear. Los muy numerosos grabados son, en su mayor parte, admirables y bien escogidos.—*P. C. Standley.*

PENTAPLARIS, A NEW GENUS OF TILIACEAE FROM COSTA RICA

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A TREE 25 OR 30 METERS TALL must be a rather conspicuous plant, even in a tropical rain forest, but the problem of securing specimens from a large tree is a difficult one for the passing botanist. Securing specimens by felling trees has yielded a number of fine species and of genera new to North America to Paul H. Allen who is resident in southern Costa Rica.

Specimens of *Pentaplaris*, which the authors did not recognize, were taken to the United States and checked in the United States National Herbarium, the Arnold Arboretum Herbarium, the Gray Herbarium and the Herbarium of Chicago Natural History Museum. Specimens were shown to A. C. Smith, Morton, Richard Howard, Johnston, Kobuski, Merrill, Steyermark and Cuatrecasas. A fragment was sent to F. C. Hoehne in Brazil. Neither the herbarium search nor showing specimens to botanists acquainted with tropical floras brought any definite results other than to confirm our opinion that the plant belonged in the Tiliaceae.

The genus seems to belong in the tribe Brownlowieae but is not closely allied to any genus of that group. It is distinct in the one-celled ovary with a single basally attached seed; in the peculiar pollen tubes which lead from the apex of the capsule to the base of the single seed; the accrescent calyx lobes, which remind one of the genus *Triplaris*, seem to be unique in the family.

Pentaplaris *L. Wms. & Standl., gen. nov.*

Arbores altae; folia simplicia, subcordata, basi (3-)5-nervia, supra basin 2-8-nervia, supra glabra, subtus stellato-pubescentia; inflorescentia terminalis, paniculata; calyx campanulatus, 5-lobatus, post inflorescentiam aliquanto accrescens; petala 5, basi connata, nuda; stamina numerosa, filamentis polydelphis, fere ad antheras in tubum elongatum adnatis; staminodia, ut videtur, nulla; antherae terminales, parvae, cellulis confluentibus; stylus petalis brevior, in tubo staminali inclusus, stigmate subcapitato 5-lobulato protruso; capsula ovata, breviter stipitata, disco tenero ciliato subtenta, 1-locularis; semen 1, basifixum, disco 4-5-lobo sustentum, lobulis 2-3 brevibus, rotundatis, lobulis aliis 2 subfiliformibus, apice capsulae affixis, forsan pro tubis polleniferis.

Pentaplaris Doroteae *L. Wms. & Standl., sp. nov.*

Arbor magna, usque ad 35-metralis, trunco 80 cm. diam., recto, cortice canescente; folia cordata, ovata, ovato-lanceolata vel ovalia vel obovata, acute vel breviter acuminata, basi 3-5-nervia, superne utroque latere 2-5-nervia, obscure sed dense stellato-pubescentia, supra maturitate glabrescentia, inaequaliteralia, interdum supra medium latissima, lamina 6-12 cm. longa, 2.5-7 cm. lata, petiolo tereti, apice glanduloso-incrassato, 1.5-3.5 cm. longo; inflorescentia paniculata, densa vel densiuscula, terminalis vel subterminalis, usque ad 20 cm. longa; calyx campanulatus, 5-lobus, saltem in statu maturo accrescens, pilis stellatis pubescens, quoque pubescentia e pilis diminutis stellatis onustus, 3-3.5 cm. longe adnatus, lobulis 1.5-2.5 cm. longis, anguste oblanceolatis, obtusis, coriaceis, prominenter reticulato-nervis; corollae segmenta 5, connata et aliquanto basi incrassata, oblanceolata, unguiculata, obtusa,



Pentaplaris Doroteae. Habit about 1/2 natural size. Dissection about 2/3 natural size.