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A NEW GENUS OF THE ACANTHACEAE¹

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A critical study of herbarium material of the genus *Dyschoriste* has revealed a small group of plants which possess sufficient morphological characters differing from *Dyschoriste* to merit generic recognition.

*Apassalus*² nov. gen. of the Acanthaceae. Calyx profunde 5-fidus. Corolla infundibuliforma; limbus subbilabiatus vel subaequalis; lobi rotundi, convoluti. Stamina 4, didynama, per paria lateraliter contigua vel connata decurrentia; antherae biloculares, basi obtusae, non acutae. Stigmatis lobus anticus obliquus vel dilatus, posticus subnullus. Capsula oblongo-linearis. Semina 2-4, plane compressa, suborbicularia.—Herbae perennes. Foliae ovatae, parvae. Flores parvae, solitarii vel in axillis fasciculati.

Type species: *Apassalus diffusus* (Nees) Kobuski.

KEY TO SPECIES

- A. Capsule 2-seeded; plants covered with short, hirsute, spreading hairs;
(Haiti).....*A. diffusus*
AA. Capsule 4-seeded; plants glabrous.
B. Leaves 9-12 mm. long, ovate-subrotund; flowers 8-9 mm. long;
(Cuba).....*A. cubensis*
BB. Leaves 25-45 mm. long, ovate-elliptic; flowers 11-12 mm. long;
(Am. bor.).....*A. humistratus*

A. diffusus (Nees) Kobuski, n. comb. Pl. 1, 2.

Dyschoriste diffusa (Nees) Urb. Symb. Ant. 7: 380. 1912.

¹ Issued April 30, 1928.

² Name derived from the Greek α , *without* and $\pi\acute{\alpha}\sigma\sigma\alpha\lambda\omicron\varsigma$, *peg*, on account of the absence of anther appendages.

Dipteracanthus diffusus Nees in DC. Prodr. 11: 124. 1847.

Dyschoriste humistrata Lindau in Urb. Symb. Ant. 2: 188. 1900, not O. Ktze., namely, as to plants of Santo Domingo.

Stems somewhat tetragonal, slender, shortly hirsute, ascending from a perennial base, nodes closely placed, 1–2.5 cm. distant; leaves suborbicular-obovate, broadly obtuse at the apex, narrowing into a petiolate cuneate base, shortly hirsute on both surfaces, entire, 10–13 mm. long, 5–9 mm. wide; inflorescence bracteate, axillary; calyx 6–7 mm. long, lobes linear-acuminate, ciliate, $\frac{2}{3}$ total length; corolla white (ex Buch) or pale lilac (ex Tuerckheim), puberulent on the external surface, 7–8 mm. long, tube extending into a slightly amplified throat, lobes rounded; anthers didynamous, filaments slightly pilose at the base, anther cells parallel or nearly so, truncate or rounded at the base; ovary 2-celled, glabrous, style linear, pubescent a little above the base, stigma dilated, oblique; capsule 6–7 mm. long, 2-celled, each cell containing a single seed attached by the retinaculum, both of which (retinacula) are situated on the central ridge of the commissural surfaces; seeds flat, orbicular, becoming mucilaginous when wetted.

Distribution: Islands of Haiti and Santo Domingo.

Specimens examined:

Haiti: on rocky outcrop, dry wooded mountain slope, vicinity of St. Marc, 25–28 Feb. 1920, *E. C. Leonard 2913* (US, G); dry bank along road near Ennery, Dept. of Artibonite, 325–900 m. alt., 13 Jan. 1926, *E. C. Leonard 8823* (US); arid thickets, north-east of the N. West Indies Company, vicinity of St. Michel de l'Atalaye, Dept. du Nord, 300 m. alt., 17 Nov. 1925, *E. C. Leonard 7093* (US); common in dry thickets, vicinity of St. Michel de l'Atalaye, Dept. du Nord, 350 m. alt., 26 Nov. 1925, *E. C. Leonard 7472* (US); Barahona, 1200 m. alt., Sept. 1911, *Fuertes 1407b* (FM, G, US).

Santo Domingo: Azua, March, 1913, *Rose, Fitch & Russel 4072* (US).

A. cubensis (Urb.) Kobuski, n. comb.

Pl. 1, 2.

Dyschoriste cubensis Urb. Symb. Ant. 7: 381. 1911.

Dyschoriste humistrata Lindau in Urb. Symb. Ant. 2: 188. 1900, not O. Ktze., namely, as to plants of Cuba.

Ruellia diffusa Grisebach, Cat. Pl. Cub. 195. 1866 (excl. syn.); Sauv. Fl. Cub. 97 (no. 1500). 1873.

Low-growing perennial, decumbent, occasionally rising erect, glabrous or minutely scabrous, young stems densely covered with cystoliths; leaves shortly petiolate, ovate to suborbicular, 9–12 mm. long, 5–7 mm. wide, rotund at the apex, tapering to a cuneate base, entire, densely covered with cystoliths on both surfaces, glabrous; flowers solitary, rarely in twos, bracts narrowly obovate; calyx 5-cleft, 6–8 mm. long, lobes linear-acuminate, nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ total length, entire external surface covered with cystoliths, glabrous, lobes ciliated; corolla 8–9 mm. long, tube cylindrical, enlarging until amplified throat is reached, lobes shortly obovate; stamens didynamous, adnate to the middle of the tube, anthers narrowly ovate, obtuse at the base; ovary 2-celled, style linear, nearly glabrous; capsule oblong-linear, 7–8 mm. long, glabrous, 4-seeded; seeds suborbicular, mucilaginous when wetted.

Distribution: near Cojimar, Prov. of Havana, Cuba.

Specimens examined:

Cuba: near Cojimar, Prov. of Havana, 14 March, 1906, *Baker 2894* (FM); shady places in coastal sand between Rio Cojimar and Playa de Bacuranao, Prov. of Havana, 26 Dec. 1910, *Wilson 9533* (G, US).

A. humistratus (Michx.) Kobuski, n. comb. Pl. 1

Dyschoriste humistrata (Michx.) O. Ktze. Rev. Gen. Pl. 2: 486. 1891.

Ruellia humistrata Michx. Fl. Bor.-Am. 2: 23. 1803; Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 2: 421. 1814.

Calophanes humistrata Shuttleworth ex. Nees in DC. Prodr. 11: 108. 1847; Gray, Syn. Fl. N. Am. ed. 1, 2¹: 324. 1878, and ed. 2. 1886; Chapman, Fl. Southeastern U.S. ed. 1, 1083. 1860, and ed. 2. 1889.

Dipteracanthus humistratus Chapman, Fl. Southeastern U.S. ed. 2, 303. 1889.

Dipteracanthus riparius Chapman, Fl. Southeastern U.S. ed. 2, 303. 1889.

Stems several, ascending or rising erect from a ligneous perennial base, 4 dm. or less high, glabrous or slightly pubescent;

leaves ovate-elliptic to oblong-sub lanceolate, 2.5–4.5 cm. long, 1–2 cm. broad, obtuse to acute at the apex, abruptly attenuated at the base into a petiole which may be so short as to give the leaf a sessile appearance or as much as 4 mm. long, glabrous or nearly so, entire or slightly crenulate margins; bracts oblong-ob lanceolate, about equalling the length of the flower; flowers axillary; calyx deeply 5-parted, 9–10 mm. long, glabrous or slightly pubescent, lobes subulate-setaceous; corolla small, white, 10–11 mm. long, tube 2.5–4 mm. long; stamens didynamous (very seldom 5), filaments pubescent at point of adnation to corolla throat, anther cells obtuse or slightly mucronulate at the base; mature capsule 9–10 mm. long, glabrous, linear, 4-seeded.

Distribution: low grounds, southeastern United States.

Specimens examined:

Georgia: Lumber City on the Ocmulgee River, Telfair Co., July, 1900, *C. Mohr* (US, 721392); shaded places in Ogeechee River swamp, Burke Co., 5 June, 1901, *R. M. Harper* 769 (M, US).

Florida: fertile ground under oaks, upper St. John's River, 1 June, *A. H. Curtiss* 23 (G); Hot Springs, 7 April, 1925, *H. O'Neill* 601 (US); Pine Island, St. John's River, 11 April, 1911, *S. C. Hood* (G); swampy shore of St. John's River, June, 1878, *A. H. Curtiss* 1939 (M, FM, G, US); wooded banks of the Suwannee River at Branford, Suwannee Co., 9 June, 1900, *A. H. Curtiss* 6654, (G, M); Suwannee Co., June–July, 1898, *A. S. Hitchcock* 1457, 1458 (FM); damp shady places, banks of Rice Creek, Putnam Co., 26 March, 1882, *C. Mohr* (US 721391); Dunnellon, Marion Co., 25 Feb. 1891, *L. F. & R. Ward* (US, 147428); Port Orange, Volusia Co., 20 May, 1895, *F. C. Straub* 164 (G); Lake Alfred, Polk Co., 11 June, 1922, *G. M. & J. K. Armstrong* (M 911680); swamp, Hernando Co., June–July, 1898, *A. S. Hitchcock* (M 120820).

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

PLATE 1

Apassalus diffusus (Nees) Kobuski

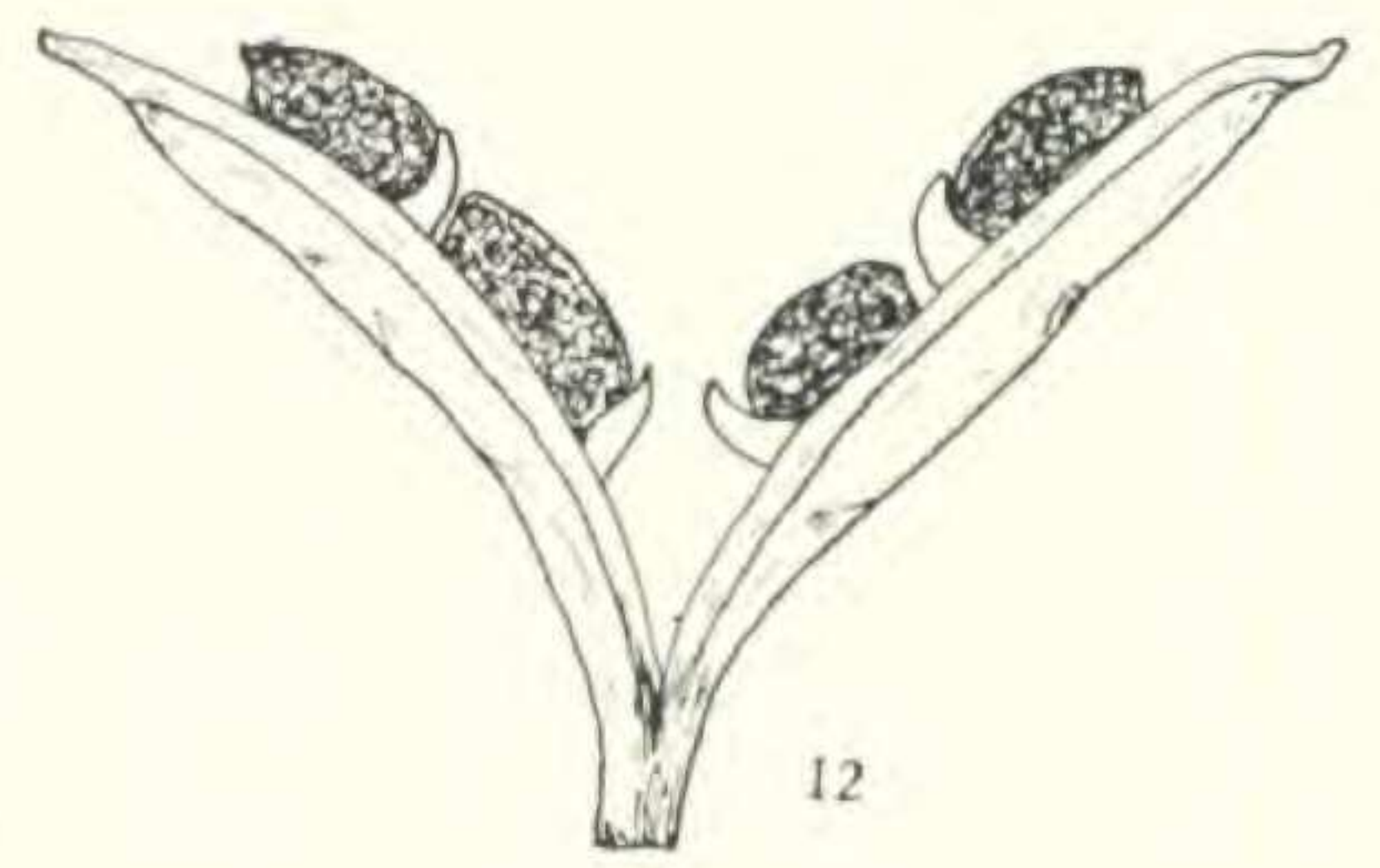
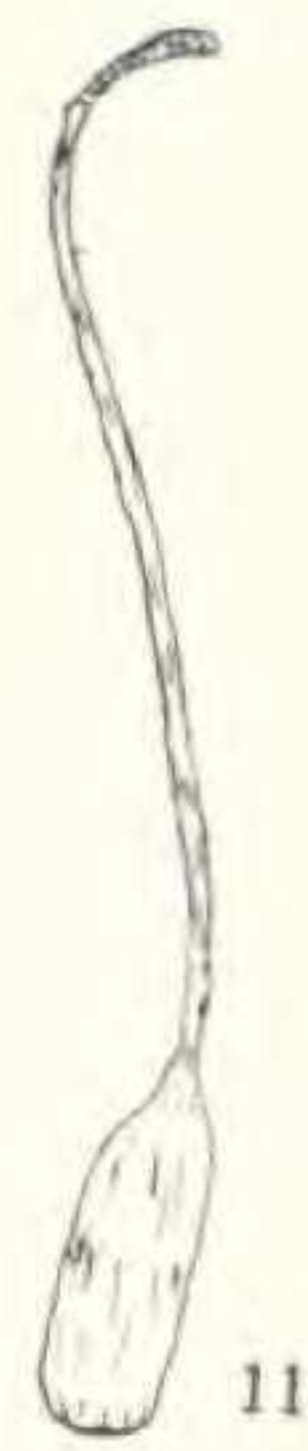
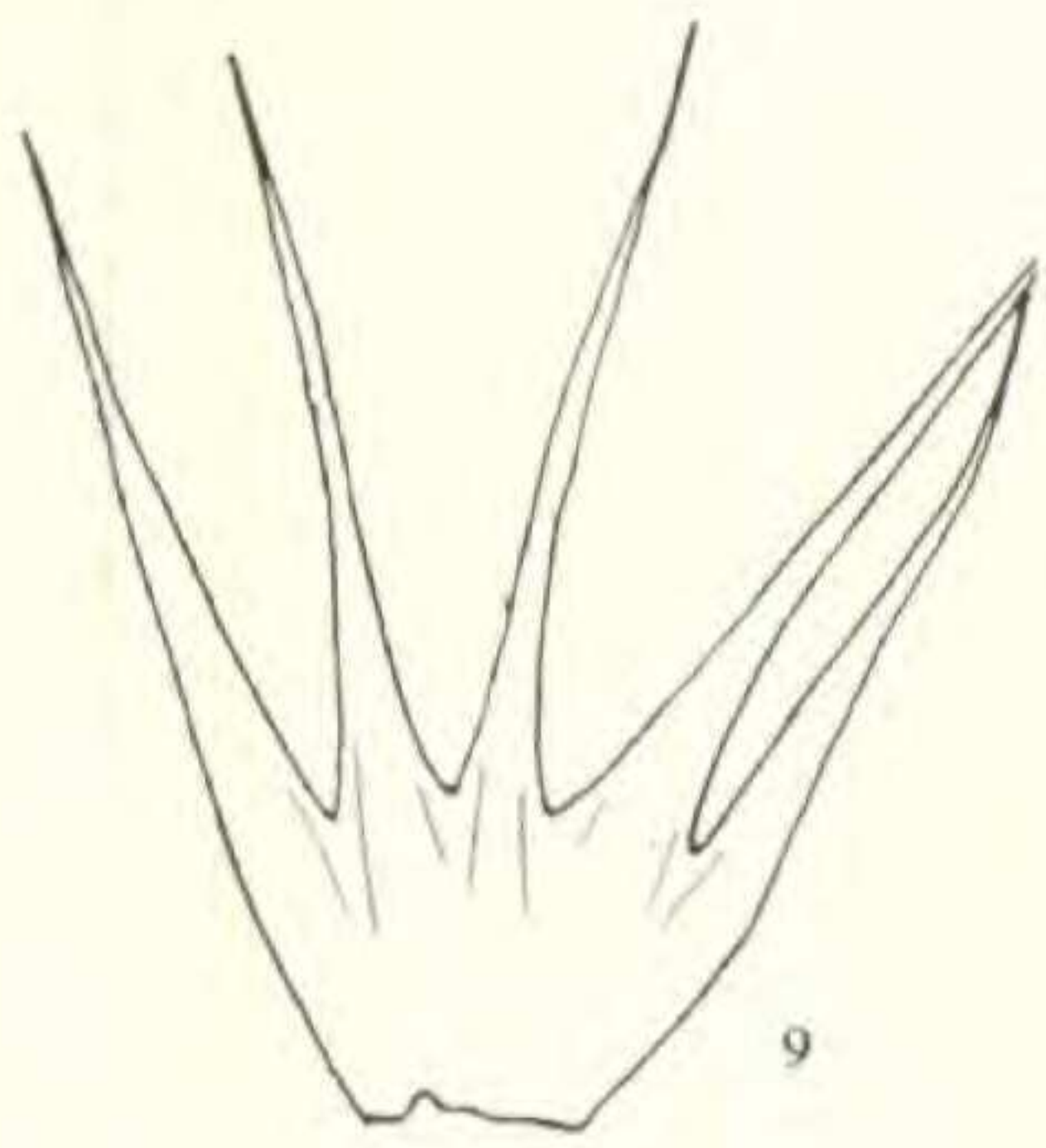
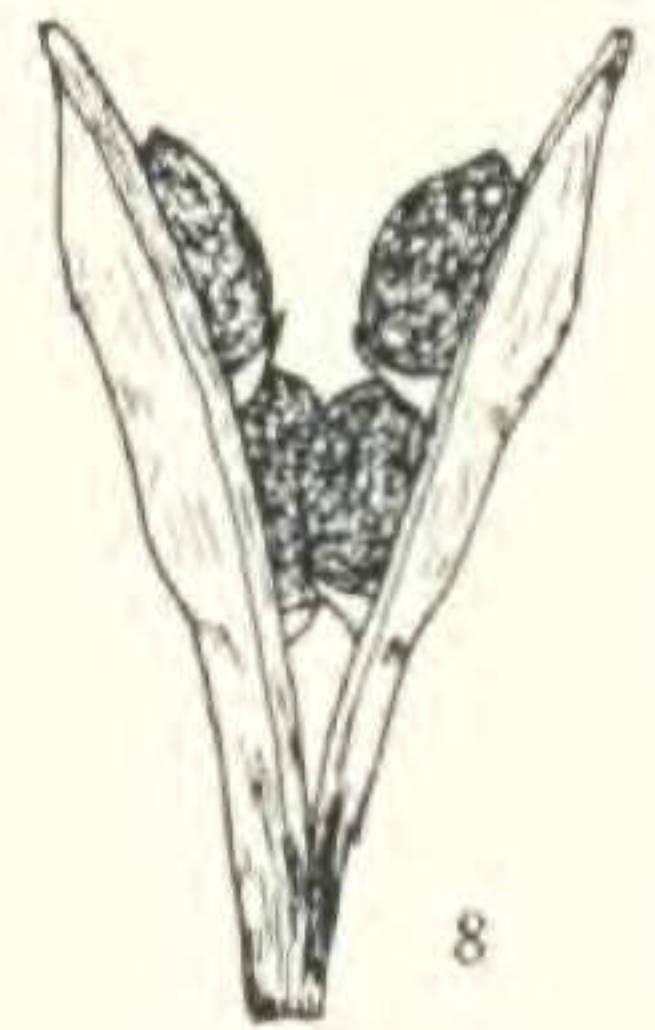
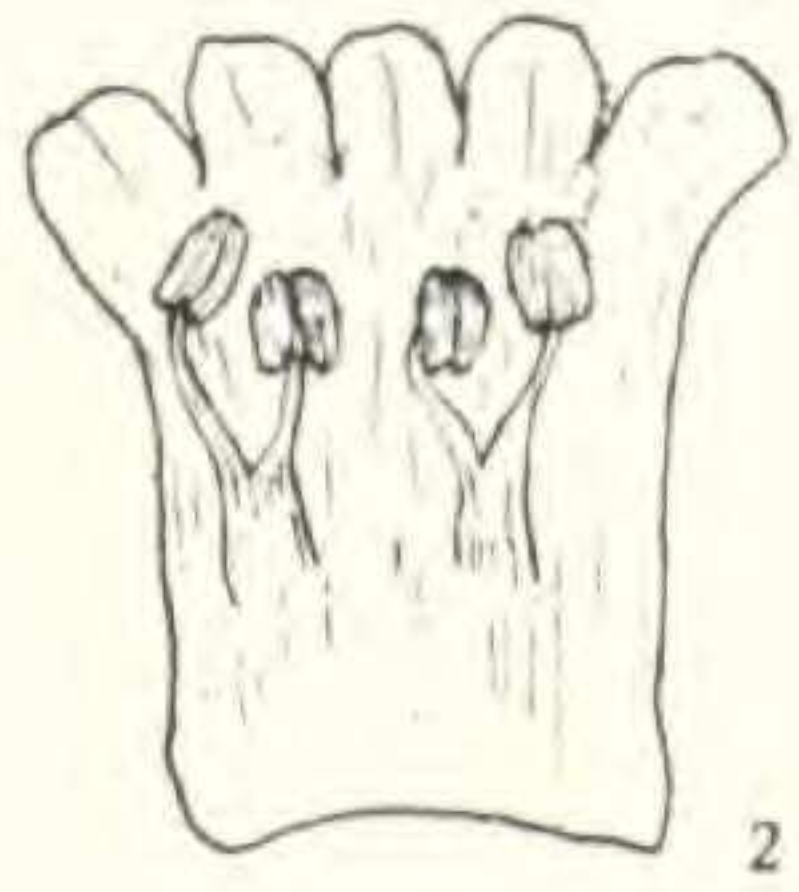
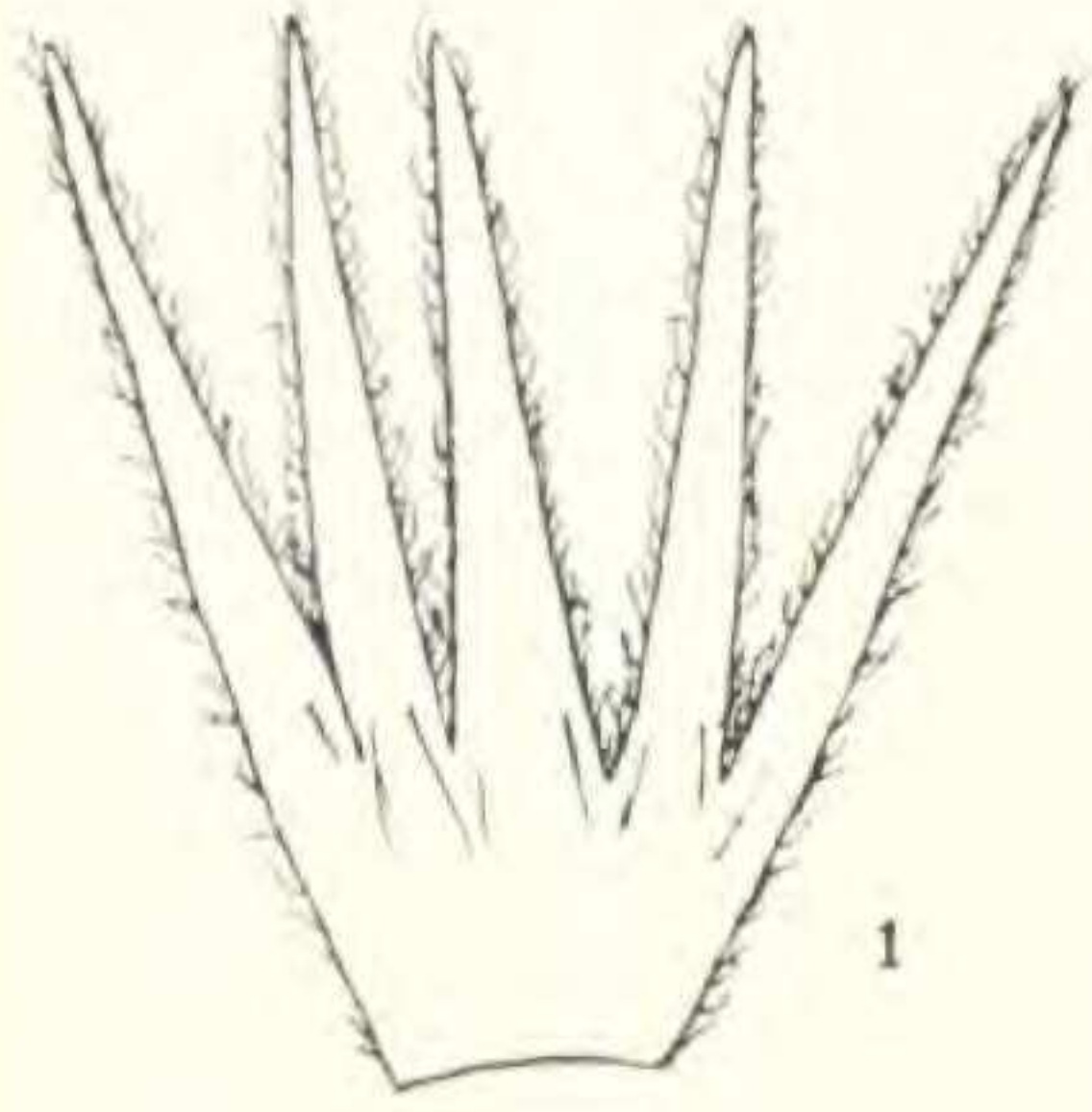
- Fig. 1. Open calyx.
- Fig. 2. Open corolla showing stamens.
- Fig. 3. Pistil.
- Fig. 4. Dehiscing capsule showing seeds and retinacula.

Apassalus cubensis (Urban) Kobuski

- Fig. 5. Open calyx.
- Fig. 6. Open corolla showing stamens.
- Fig. 7. Pistil.
- Fig. 8. Dehiscing capsule showing seeds and retinacula.

Apassalus humistratus (Michx.) Kobuski

- Fig. 9. Open calyx.
- Fig. 10. Open corolla showing stamens.
- Fig. 11. Pistil.
- Fig. 12. Dehiscing capsule showing seeds and retinacula.



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EXPLANATION OF PLATE

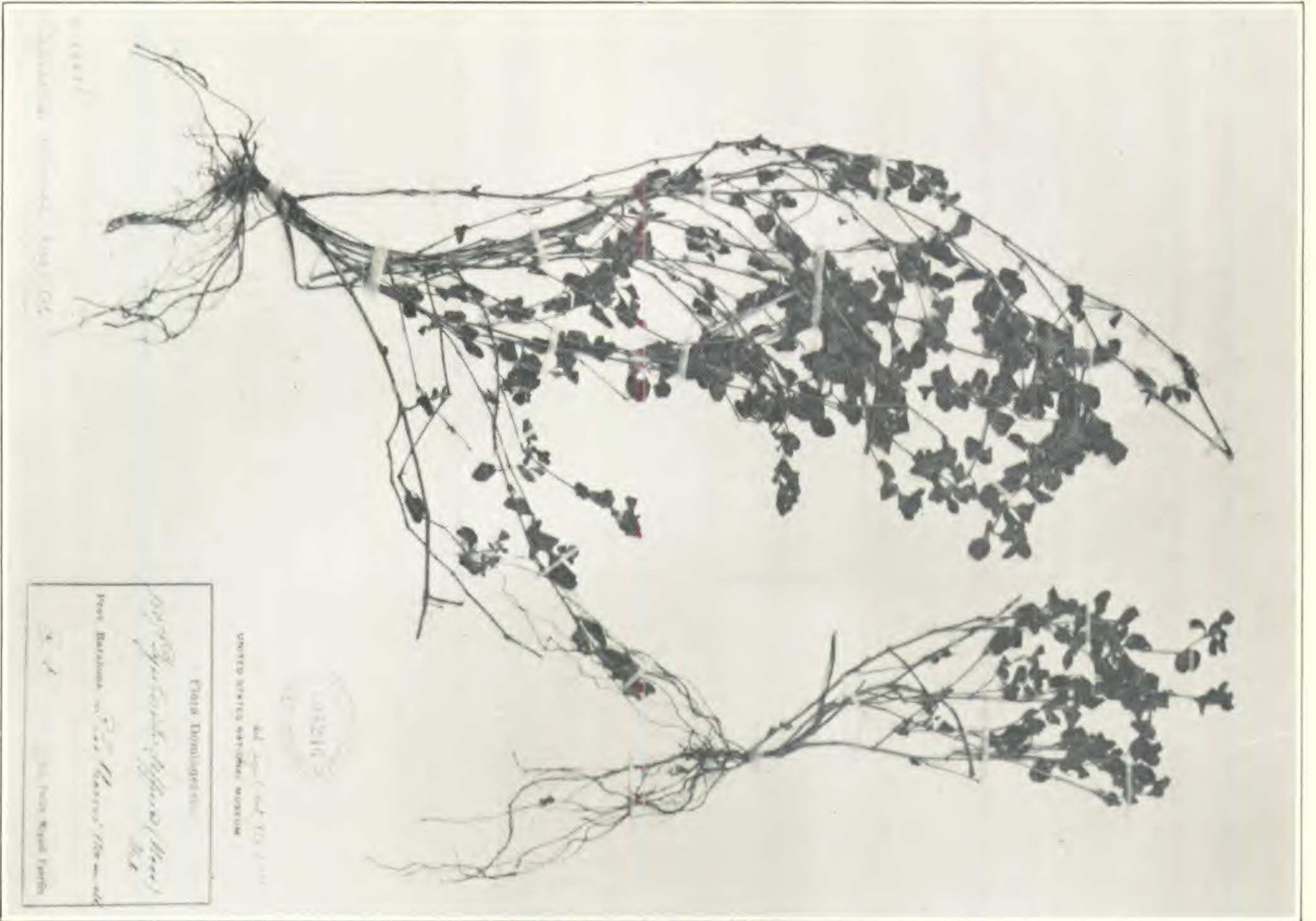
PLATE 2

Fig. 1. *Apassalus diffusus* (Nees) Kobuski

From the specimen, *Fuertes 1407b*, in the United States National Herbarium,

Fig. 2. *Apassalus cubensis* (Urban) Kobuski

From the specimen *Baker 2894*, in the Herbarium of the Field Museum.



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