

This species, from the banks of the Rio Huallaga near Yurimaguas, Peru, was stated by its authors to be without doubt identical with *Piratinera guianensis* Aubl. Pittier,¹¹ however, considers it "probable that it belongs neither to Brosimum nor to Piratinera, but perhaps to *Helicostylis*." The description and figures of the receptacle and floral parts, however, particularly of the peltate bracteoles, seem to me to indicate that the plant is a *Piratinera*, and that the staminate flowers were overlooked. The difference in range makes it improbable that the plant is identical with Aublet's species. Until more information is secured, it is impossible to dispose of the name definitely.

BOTANY.—*Diospyros konzattii*, a new species of persimmon from Mexico. PAUL C. STANDLEY, U. S. National Museum.¹

The National Museum has received recently from Prof. C. Conzatti of Oaxaca, Mexico, specimens of a native persimmon which can not be referred satisfactorily to any of the ten species previously listed from the country. The Mexican species of the genus are endemic, with two exceptions—*Diospyros ebenaster* Retz., an East Indian species with large fruit (4 to 7 cm. in diameter or larger), which is widely cultivated, being known commonly as "zapote prieto;" and *D. texana* Scheele, the "chapote" or "chapote prieto," which extends into western Texas. All the Mexican persimmons have edible fruit, whose pulp is usually black at maturity. The species here described is an interesting addition to the known trees of Mexico, especially since the collector has furnished such complete information concerning it.

Diospyros konzattii Standl., sp. nov.

Tree, 10 meters high, the branchlets minutely and sparsely fulvous-puberulent; petioles 4 to 6 mm. long, minutely puberulent or glabrous; leaf blades ovate-oblong or lance-oblong, 5 to 9.5 cm. long, 2.5 to 3.5 cm. wide, acuminate, acute or subobtuse at base, subcoriaceous, glabrous, somewhat lustrous above, the costa depressed, the lateral nerves nearly obsolete, the costa prominent beneath, the lateral nerves also prominent, slender, irregular, 5 or 6 on each side; fruits borne on short stout pedicels; calyx 5-parted, the lobes narrowly lance-oblong or linear-lanceolate, 15 to 18 mm. long, long-attenuate, glabrous or sparsely strigillose outside near the base; fruit depressed-globose, about 4 cm. broad and 2 cm. high, glabrous, green, the pulp black; seeds 5 to 10, strongly compressed, about 13 mm. long and 10 mm. broad, brown, finely rugulose.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, no. 1,014,759, collected in the Cafetal San Rafael, Cerro Espino, Distrito de Pochutla, Oaxaca, Mexico, April 24, 1917, by C. Conzatti (no. 3167).

¹¹ Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 20: 98. 1918.

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Diospyros conzattii is not closely related to any of the species previously reported from Mexico, with the possible exception of *D. blepharophylla* Standl. (*D. ciliata* A. DC.), a little-known plant, the type of which is said to have come from southern Mexico. That is described as having ovate-elliptic ciliate leaves, on longer petioles.

From a manuscript work upon the edible fruits of Mexico, Professor Conzatti has furnished the following notes concerning the new species here described:

"On the twenty-fourth of April, 1917, while making an excursion in the company of Señor E. Makrinus, manager of the Cafetal Concordia and its subsidiaries, District of Pochutla, Oaxaca, on the so-called Cerro Espino, upon which lies the Cafetal San Rafael, I had the good fortune to find among other things a medium-sized (10 meters) tree, known there as *zapote negro montés*. At that time of the year the tree bore leaves and ripe fruits. Sampling the fruits, with some suspicion at first, I found them quite to my taste and ate as many as I could. But I prefer to quote what I have already published in the *Boletín de la Dirección de Estudios Biológicos*:²

"The *zapote negro montés* is especially interesting because of its edible fruit, of exquisite flavor. With the exception of the *chicozapote*, I know of no other fruit which compares in quality with the *zapote negro*, and all the persons who have tried it are agreed in considering it superior to that. The fruits, which are perfectly round, and green outside, are much smaller than those of the common *zapote negro* (*Diospyros ebenaster*), being only 4 cm. in diameter and 2 cm. or slightly more in height, since they are somewhat depressed.

"It seems to me that propagation of the tree should be relatively simple, taking into account the elevation (1,000 meters) at which it grows and the fact that it is native."

BOTANY.—A new *Salvinia* from Trinidad.¹ WILLIAM R. MAXON, National Museum.

In Christensen's Index Filicum 13 species of water fernworts of the genus *Salvinia* are recognized, these mainly inhabitants of tropical regions. Of the few American species, *S. sprucei*, known from a single collection in the Amazon region, has been unique in having ascending, somewhat cup-shaped leaves, in distinction from the plane blades of the small floating leaves of other species. Recently a new species closely allied to *S. sprucei* has been collected in Trinidad. This is described below.

² II. 3: 316. 1918.

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