Type of Dactylocladus stenostchys Oliv. [family MELASTOMATACEAE]

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PLATE 2351.

DACTYLOCLADUS STENOSTACHYS, *Oliv.*

MELASTOMACEÆ. Tribe MEMECYLEÆ.

Dactylocladus, *Oliver* (*nov. gen.*). *Calyx* late campanulatus, breviter 4–5-fidus, dentibus deltoideis æstivatione valvatis ; tubus supra ovarium semi-inferum breviter productus, disco hirtello adnato. *Petala* perigyna, libera, unguiculata, sub sinubus calycinis inserta calycem leviter superantia, caduca ; lamina semiorbicularis extus tomentella ; unguis q. lamina paullo brevior. *Stamina* 5 petalis opposita, perigyna, calyci æquilonga ; filamenta complanata ; anthera bilocularis, fere hemisphærica carnosula, dorso rotundata, margine pollinifera, æstivatione inflexa. *Ovarium* ½–⅔-inferum, placentis 4 (3–5) intrusis sed vix coalitis ; ovula in loculis incompletis sæpius 3 a basi cavitatis adscendentia ; stylus 1 tomentellus, mox exsertus ; stigma capitatum. *Capsula* apice libera loculicide 4–5-valvis, valvis deltoideis acuminatis apice sæpe (ob stylum imperfecte fissum) coalitis ; semina albida erecta oblonga ; testa laxe spongioso-cellulosa alata ; nucleus oblongus, exalbuminosus ; embryo rectus, radicula subteres cotyledonibus complanatis æquilonga v. paullo longior.—Arbor v. arbuscula *inflorescentia puberula excepta glabra ; internodia superiora sæpius plus minus 4-angulata.* Folia *coriacea, opposita, oblongo- v. obovato-elliptica, obtusa v. late acutata, integra, nervis primariis venisque obscuris ; petioli breves.* Flores *parvi in racemos terminales spiciformes sæpius 3–5-natim paniculatos dispositi, pedicelli brevissimi ; bracteæ minutissimæ, caducæ.*

D. stenostachys, *Oliver* (*sp. unica*). *Internodia* superiora sæpius 2–4 poll. longa. *Folia* 2–3 poll. longa, 1–1½ poll. lata ; petiolus ¼ poll. longus. *Inflorescentia* pedunculata ; racemi 1–3 poll. longi. *Flores* ⅒ poll. longi. *Capsula* ⅛–⅙ poll. longa.

HAB. Borneo : Sarawak, *Beccari* (3272) ; Sibu, on the Rejang river, *Haviland* (2916).

The affinity of this interesting plant is no doubt with the genus *Axinandra*, first described by Thwaites, from Ceylon, to which Maingay added a species from Malacca, and Beccari three from Borneo, the latter described by M. Baillon ('Bull. Soc. Linn. Paris,' i. 127–128), which he distinguishes from the type under the subgeneric name *Naxiandra*, their ovules being geminate in each cell, not solitary as in *A. zeylanica*. *Axinandra* was left as 'genus anomalum' under Lythrarieæ by Bentham and Hooker in 'Gen. Plantarum.' M. Baillon, however, points out (*l.c.*) its relationship to the American genus *Mouriria* in the anthers inflexed in æstivation, and the structure of the ovary ; Dr. Krasser, in Engler and Prantl's 'Pflanzenfamilien,' follows him in referring it to Memecyleæ, and I have adopted the same view for the present genus as reasonable. As pointed out in 'Gen. Plantarum,' *Axinandra* has many features recalling also Legnotideæ. *Dactylocladus* differs from *Axinandra* in its isostemonous flowers, the 4–5 stamens opposite to unguiculate petals, which in no way cohere, and in the imperfect division of the ovary with three ovules to each partial cell. In aspect and texture the leaves also are very different from those of *Axinandra*. The branches are apt to develop from superposed axillary buds, so that they occur five or more in one plane apparently divergent from one node. The same may occur in the inflorescence.—D. OLIVER.

Fig. 1. Flower and bract. 2. Petal. 3. Vertical section of flower. Transverse section of ovary 5. Persistent calyx and fruit after dehiscence. 6. Seed. 7. Embryo. *All enlarged.*