

The other fern which has been confounded by me in my Revision is the one there named *Davallia dareæformis*, Levinge MS., which is made up out of the two ferns previously known as *Acrophorus Hookeri*, Moore, and *Polypodium dareæforme*, Hook. I have thrown these two into one by misunderstanding Levinge's MS. note at Kew. Levinge noted that *P. dareæforme*, Hook., was a *Davallia*; and I erroneously assumed that he meant it to be the same plant as *Acrophorus Hookeri*. The two are extremely alike, as may be seen from the typical sheets of them here (type sheets exhibited at the Meeting); but the scales on the rhizome sufficiently distinguish them specifically. Col. Beddome indeed still maintains that they are generically distinct; *i. e.* that there is a small scale over the young sorus in *Acrophorus Hookeri*, and that there is absolutely no such scale in *Polypodium dareæforme*. I certainly think that the orthodox school of English pteridologists pay far too exclusive attention to this small scale as a generic character throughout the whole of their arrangement, and that Mettenius and Mr. J. Smith have better indicated the true affinities of ferns by laying more stress on the articulation of the caudex and the venation. The amalgamated *D. dareæformis*, Levinge, of my paper must be split in any case into two species, viz. :—

*D. DAREÆFORMIS*, Levinge, = *Polypodium dareæforme*, Hook. 2nd Cent. Ferns, t. 24.—*Acrophorus Hookeri*, Bedd. Ferns Brit. Ind. t. 95.—*Gymnogrammitis*, Griff. Ic. Pl. As. t. 129. fig. 1.

*D. CLARKII*, Hook. & Baker, Syn. Fil. 91, = *Acrophorus Hookeri*, Moore, Ind. Fil. ii. 2, not of Bedd.

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On *Dyera*, a new Genus of Rubber-producing Plants belonging to the Natural Order Apocynaceæ, from the Malayan Archipelago. By Sir J. D. HOOKER, F.R.S., Vice-Pres. L.S.

[Read June 15, 1882.]

IN the course of studying the Apocynaceæ for the 'Flora of British India' my attention was drawn to two Malayan Rubber-producing plants which constitute a new genus of the Order. Of these, one, from Malacca, had been correctly referred by Mr. Dyer to *Alstonia? costulata*, Miquel (Flor. Ind. Bat. Suppl. 556), a Sumatran plant, described from leaves only, of which an authentically

named specimen was communicated by its author to Sir W. Hooker, and is preserved in the Kew Herbarium. This species is mentioned amongst the Rubbers enumerated in the Kew Reports for 1878 (p. 39) and 1880 (p. 47), as yielding the gutta-jelutong. The other, a very closely allied and apparently undescribed species, is a native of Borneo, and was sent first by Mr. Low as the Gutta Jelutong of that island, and subsequently from the Singapore Botanic Gardens by Mr. Burbidge under the same name. Fortunately flowering individuals of both these species have been collected. Of the Malacca one first by Griffith (who is indeed the discoverer of that one, and hence of the genus), and who communicated specimens to Dr. Wight, then resident in the Madras Presidency, and to Dr. Gardner, when that botanist was Superintendent of the Ceylon Botanic Gardens, and both of which are preserved at Kew; secondly, by that indefatigable Indian botanist Dr. Maingay, whose specimens in flower and young fruit are accompanied by MS. notes; and, lastly, by Mr. Murton, late Superintendent of the Singapore Botanical Gardens, who has communicated to the museum at Kew leaves and old fruits, from which unfortunately the seeds have escaped. Of the Bornean plant, the only flowering specimens I have seen are from Dr. Beccari, and are the No. 3570 of his splendid herbaria. But besides the leafy one above mentioned from Mr. Low and the cultivated ones procured by Mr. Burbidge, there is in the herbarium one from Mr. Lobb collected in 1856, or thereabouts, in Borneo.

For this genus I propose the name of *Dyera*, after Mr. Thiselton Dyer, F.R.S., the Assistant Director of Kew, to whom I am indebted for the discrimination of the Rubber-yielding plants enumerated in the Kew Reports, and whose paper on the subject is now, I believe, to be presented to the Society. Its nearest affinity is no doubt with *Alstonia*, from which it differs conspicuously in the sessile stigma, a character rare in the Order, and in the singular fruit. It further differs from that genus in the extraordinary minuteness of the flowers, which are scarcely  $\frac{1}{18}$  of an inch in length, whilst the ovules have a diameter (as taken from dried specimens after saturation with warm water) of only  $\frac{1}{200}$  to  $\frac{1}{300}$  of an inch. These latter minute organs are succeeded by fruits of unusually large dimensions for the Order.

## DYERA, gen. nov.

*Char. gen.* Calyx 5-fidus, eglandulosus v. glandulis parvis ad basin loborum. Corolla hypocrateriformis, tubo cylindraceo calycem paullo excedente vix ad stamina dilatato; glandulis squamisve inter stamina ad basin filamentorum instructo, fauce esquamata; lobi 5, contorti, sinistrorsum obtegentes, vix torti. Stamina infra medium tubi inserta, inclusa, filamentis brevibus; antheræ liberæ, oblongo-ovoideæ, crassiusculæ, loculis infra medium connectivi crassi apice obtusi positis inappendiculatis basi obtusis. Discus obscurus, annularis, v. 0. Ovarium integrum, late obconico-hemisphæricum, vertice obtusum, glanduloso-puberulum, 2-loculare; stigma obpyriforme, sessile, 2-partitum, lobis sibimet adpressis; ovula in loculis numerosa, placentis loculo intrusis multiseriatim conferta. Folliculi 2, crassi, elongati, basi confluentes et reflexi, dein rectiusculi, obtusi, polyspermi. Semina compressa, alata, \* \* \*.—Arbores elatæ, ramulis crassis verticillatis, gummem elasticam copiosam scatentes. Folia verticillata, quovis verticillo 6-9, crasse coriacea, obovata v. oblonga, obtusa, subtus pallida, nervis crassis patentibus, petiolo longiusculo. Flores minuti, in cymas axillares et subterminales longe pedunculatas umbellatim dispositi, minute bracteati.

1. *DYERA COSTULATA*, nob. Foliis oblongis utrinque rotundatis.—*Alstonia*? costulata, *Miquel, Fl. Ind. Bat. Suppl.* 556.

*Hab.* Sumatra, *Teymann*; Malacca, *Griffith, Maingay (Kew distrib.* 2573).

2. *D. LOWII*, nob. Foliis obovatis basi in petiolum angustatis.

*Hab.* Borneo, *Low, Beccari*; Sarawak, *Thos. Lobb*.

On a Collection of Ferns made by the Rev. R. B. Comins in the Solomon Islands. By J. G. BAKER, F.R.S., F.L.S.

[Read June 15, 1882.]

I HAVE just been favoured with an opportunity of examining a collection of ferns made by the Rev. R. B. Comins in the Solomon Archipelago, collected mainly in San Cristoval, the southern island of the group, and the adjacent islet of Contrarietes. It contains altogether upwards of sixty species of ferns, Lycopods, and Selaginellaceæ, of which the following are of special interest, the remainder being widely-spread Polynesian and tropical Asiatic types.

*DAVALLIA DENHAMI*, *Hook.*