



TAB. 5917.

ABUTILON DARWINII.

*Native of South Brazil.*

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Nat. Ord. MALVACEÆ.—Tribe MALVÆÆ.

Genus ABUTILON, *Gærtn.*; (*Benth. et Hook. f. Gen. Pl.*, vol. i. p. 204).

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ABUTILON *Darwinii*; frutescens, molliter velutino-tomentosum, foliis petiolatis basi cordatis 5-9-nerviis, inferioribus late palmatis 5-fidis superioribus 3-fidis supremis integris ovatis, lobis triangularibus acuminatis crenulatis v. denticulatis, floribus in axillis solitariis v. 2-3-nis gracile pedunculatis nutantibus subsanguineo aurantiacis, nervis saturatoribus, calycis tomentosi tubo hemispherico, lobis triangulari-ovatis acuminatis enerviis petalis obovato-orbiculatis subdimidio brevioribus, carpellis numerosis (15—20) vesicularibus.

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I received flowering specimens of this plant from my friend Mr. Darwin, in April last, with the information that he had raised it from seed transmitted by the learned German zoologist, Fritz Mueller, of Itzigahy, in St. Catherines, S. Brazil, and that it forms a large, erect, handsome bush, loaded with flowers, and is very ornamental; also that it possesses the peculiarity of being, during the early part of its flowering season, absolutely sterile with its own pollen but fertile with the pollen of any other individual (of the same species); whilst later in the season it is capable of self-fertilization.

Referring to the Herbaria, I find beautiful dried specimens communicated by Dr. Fritz Mueller in 1869, with flowers fully two and a half inches diameter, (much larger than in the cultivated plant), and others gathered at a long antecedent date, namely, in 1836, by Tweedie, who found it in shady woods at the summit of St. Joveir. Dr. Mueller's specimens are labelled as from Capivari, a locality presumably in the

province of St. Catherines, where Dr. Mueller resides, though the only place of that name which I find in the maps is in the province of Rio de Janeiro, and E.N.E. of the capital. Where St. Joveir (as I read it, for Tweedie's writing and spelling are equally bad) is I cannot tell,—the only place of that name I find is in Bolivia, far from the scene of Mr. Tweedie's travels, which extended over an immense tract of country chiefly to the southward and westward of Brazil proper, extending into Tucuman, Banda Oriental, &c.

It is with hesitation that I have advanced this as a new species of a genus already numbering some seventy to eighty species, many of them Brazilian. Its allies are *A. Bedfordianum*, Hook. (Tab. Nost. 3892), *A. virens*, St. Hil., and *A. pictum* (Tab. Nost. 3840), which all differ abundantly.

DESCR. A large, branching shrub, copiously covered with dense short velvety tomentum. *Branches* terete, slender. *Leaves* petioled, four to six inches long, by two to four broad, all deeply cordate at the base, the lower broad and palmately 5- to 7-lobed to near the middle, the upper 3-lobed, the uppermost entire and ovate-cordate; lobes of all triangular, ovate, acute, minutely toothed and crenate; nerves three to nine, palmately spreading from the top of the petiole, which is one and a half to two inches long, slender and terete. *Flowers* one to three in the axils of many of the leaves, one and a half to two and a half inches in diameter, broadly campanulate, drooping, dark orange-red, with blood-red veins and bases of the petals; peduncles slender, one half to one inch long. *Calyx* densely velvety-pubescent, tube hemispheric, lobes triangular-ovate, acuminate, quite entire, about one-third as long as the petals. *Petals* orbicular-obovate, concave. *Stamens* very numerous, column of anthers oblong, dark orange-red. *Carpels* numerous, ten or more, hairy; styles filiform, stigmas capitate. *Fruit* vesicular, small (ripe not seen).—*J. D. H.*

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Fig. 1, Ovary, style, and stigmas :—*magnified.*