

AMBORELLA TRICHOPODA BAILL.
A NEW TYPE OF VESSELLESS DICOTYLEDON

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IN 1900, at the conclusion of his discussion of the eight known genera of the Homoxyles, Van Tieghem* made the following prophecy: "Ce groupe étant ainsi établi, il est probable que les découvertes ultérieures y introduiront peu à peu de nouveaux membres. Il est possible aussi que ces nouveaux membres offrent les divers types d'organisation florale qui n'y sont pas encore représentés. L'exemple du Tétracentre, qui n'est connu que depuis douze ans, est instructif sous ce rapport et autorise toutes les espérances."

During the last 46 years, in extensive investigations of extant angiosperms, no new types of large, perennial, vesselless dicotyledons have come to light. Even in the paleobotanical field, vesselless woods, that have been described from India (Jurassic ?), Western North America (Tertiary) and Greenland (Eocene), apparently are anatomically indistinguishable from the secondary xylem of the living *Trochodendron* and *Tetracentron*. It is of considerable general botanical interest, therefore, that the New Caledonian endemic, *Amborella*, proves to be a new type of vesselless dicotyledon.

A detailed morphological discussion of this remarkable plant will appear in a forthcoming issue of this Journal.

* TIEGHEM, P. VAN. Sur les dicotylédones du groupe des Homoxylées. Jour. de Bot. 14: 361. 1900.

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