

suddenly-inflated knob quite absent in the present species. The flowers certainly thus make an approach to *C. micrantha*, R. & P., but the very different foliage and capsules widely separate the two species. The plant alluded to by Mr. Howard in this Journal† under the name of the “Morada,” and collected by Pedro Rada on the rivers Bossi and Beni in Eastern Bolivia, is, to judge from the coloured figure given of the young leaves, extremely like *C. Ledgeriana*. The bark, too, is known to be a good sort of *Calisaya*-bark. The trees, however, are said to reach a height of 120–150 feet, and the flowers of this “morada” to be “purple”; but a closely-allied form, “la verde,” has them “white.”

For the specimens figured I am indebted to Mr. Walter Agar. They are from Mahanilla Estate, in the Maskeliya district of Ceylon, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years old from seed, and about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet high (being, as above mentioned, grown in unfavourable circumstances). The seed came from the late Mr. MacIvor, Superintendent of the Cinchona plantation in the Nilgiris, obtained, there can be no doubt, from trees which originated from Mr. Ledger's seed.

Peradeniya, Ceylon, September 1st, 1881,

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EXPLANATION OF PLATES 221 AND 222. — Fig. 1. A flowering twig. Fig. 1.\* A panicle-branch showing the dimorphic habit of the flower. Fig. 2. Buds (enlarged). Fig. 3. Calyx, with short style (enlarged). Figs. 4, 5. Corolla opened (enlarged). Fig. 6. Fruit. Fig. 6.\* Id. (from Java). Fig. 7. Tree from which specimen was taken ( $\frac{1}{32}$ ). Fig. 8. Top of a seedling plant.

## A CHINESE PUZZLE BY LINNÆUS.

BY PROF. ASA GRAY.

In the ‘Species Plantarum’ Linnæus characterized and named an *Athamantha chinensis*, and gives the following indication of its source:—“Habitat—Chinensem dixit Barthram qui semina misit ex Virginia.” Loureiro, taking his cue from the specific name, applies it to some Chinese Umbellifer. DeCandolle, in the ‘Prodromus,’ seizing upon the phrase “*Statura Selini Monnieri*,” adds the name (with references both to Loureiro and to Linnæus) as a synonym to *Cnidium Monnieri*, giving the habitat only of “Gallia Austr.,” and that with a mark of doubt. American botanists have generally passed it by, notwithstanding the statement that Linnæus raised the plant from seed sent by Bartram from Virginia. Some one—I cannot now say who—suggested to me the solution of this riddle, namely, that the seeds sent by Bartram belonged to *Selinum canadense*, and came from *Genesee*, which name Linnæus had inadvertently changed to *Chinense*. The Linnean herbarium confirms this suggestion as to the plant, which although only in the flowering state, well accords with *Selinum canadense*; and so does the description of the

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† ‘Journ. Bot.,’ 1869, p. 1, t. 87.



Gray, Asa. 1881. "A Chinese puzzle by Linnæus." *Journal of botany, British and foreign* 19, 325–326.

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