
XXVIII. *Description of Cowania, a new Genus of Plants; and of a new Species of Sieversia. By Mr. David Don, Libr. L.S.*

Read November 2, 1824.

IN an extensive Mexican collection, forming part of the Herbarium of the Spanish botanists Sessè and Mocinno, which has lately come into Mr. Lambert's possession, are specimens of two remarkable plants belonging to the family of the *Rosaceæ*: one of them forms a very singular new genus, and the other has all the essential characters of *Sieversia*, but widely different in its habit. I have named this new genus *Cowania*, a name which is intended to commemorate the botanical zeal and acquirements of James Cowan, Esq., who, as a merchant, had several times visited Mexico and Peru; from whence he has introduced many new plants, some of which have now become common in our gardens,—such as *Cineraria Petasites* and *Inula glauca*. The showy *Solanum amazonium*, *Russelia multiflora*, *Chrysiphiala flava*, and *Allium Cowani* were first introduced by him. Mr. Lambert received from him in 1823 a rich collection of seeds and bulbs: among the latter were *Chrysiphiala urceolata* and *Amaryllis candida*. A number of plants, some of them apparently new, have been raised in the stoves at Boyton from the seeds, and are likely soon to produce flowers. Much was still to be expected from Mr. Cowan's exertions in the advancement of his favourite pursuit; but alas! death deprived science of his labours. He died at Lima in the autumn of 1823, deeply regretted

by all his acquaintance. In the natural system *Cowania* must be placed near to *Dryas*, with which it agrees in the uniformity of the divisions of the calyx, being destitute of the accessory segments found in *Sieversia*, *Geum*, *Potentilla*, &c., and likewise in having coriaceous, reticulated leaves, naked and shining above, woolly underneath, and with their margins revolute. It is to be observed, however, that in *Dryas* the calyx is 8- or 10-cleft, and scarcely tubular, the leaves undivided, and the flowers white, on long footstalks; but the most important character of *Cowania*, by which it is at once distinguished from *Dryas* and all its co-ordinates, is to be found in the reduced number of its pistils, which are from five to eleven—a very small number, when compared with that of other genera of this family. The hollow pear-shaped calyx of this plant points out decidedly the true nature of the fruit in *Rosa*, which is nothing more than the tube of the calyx formed into a kind of receptacle, as has been justly remarked by our learned President and Mr. Woods. There cannot, I think, be a shadow of doubt as to the propriety of uniting the *Potentilla* of Jussieu, the *Dryadeæ* of M. Decandolle, with *Rosa* in the same natural family. I shall now proceed to give descriptions of these two plants.

COWANIA.

CHAR ESSENT. *Calyx* 5-fidus. *Petala* 5. *Ovaria* 5—11: *ovulo* erecto. *Styli* terminales, continui. *Achenia* stylis plumosis persistentibus aristata. *Embryo* erectus.

DESCR. *Flores* polygami. *Calyx* obturbinatus basi attenuatâ tubulosus, intùs striis numerosis parallelis exaratus, extùs glandulis tectus, limbo 5-fidus: *lobis* subæqualibus subrotundo-ovalibus, patulis, retusis cum mucronulo; *accessoriis* nullis.

nullis. *Petala* 5, obovata, retusa, caduca, fauci calycis inserta. *Stamina* indefinitè numerosa, persistentia, duplici serie fauci calycis inserta: *filamenta* capillaria, glabra: *antheræ* subrotundo-ovales, peltatæ, biloculares, duplici rimâ longitudinali dehiscentes. *Ovaria* definita (5—11), densè villosa, fundo tubi calycini adnata. *Styli* totidem, longissimi, terminales, continui, villis mollissimis plumosi. *Stigmata* filiformia, nuda. *Achenia* elliptica, erecta, basi attenuata, stylis longissimis (nunc bipollicaribus) totis persistentibus valdè plumosis aristata. *Semen* solitarium, exalbuminosum, testâ coriaceâ fuscâ obvolutum. *Embryo* erectus, lacteus, cavitati seminis conformis: *cotyledones* spatulatæ, plano-convexæ, obtusissimæ: *radicula* crassa, recta, cotyledonibus ter brevior, centripeta, basi attenuata. *Plumula* inconspicua.

Frutex erectus, ramosissimus. Ramuli brevissimi, conferti, teretes, foliosi, undique densè lanati. Folia alterna, sessilia confertissima, parva, linearia, coriacea, margine integerrima ac revoluta, suprâ glandulosa, viridia et nitida, subtùs niveo-lanata, vix semipollicaria, apice dilatata ac tripartita: segmentis lineari-oblongis, obtusissimis, margine revolutis. Stipulæ binæ, membranaceæ, dilatatæ, integerrimæ, sericeæ, secus petiolorum bases adnatæ, imbricatæ, acumine lineari-subulato libero. Flores aurei, numerosi, sessiles, in apice ramulorum solitarii, magnitudine eorum Potentillæ fruticosæ.

1. *C. mexicana.* TAB. XXII. Fig. 1.

Habitat in Mexico. *Sesse et Mocinno.* h. (v. s. sp. in Herb. Lamb.)

SIEVERSIA. Willd. Brown.

Calyx decemfidus, laciniis alternis accessoriis. *Petala* 5. *Stamina* indefinitè numerosa. *Ovaria* indefinita, ovulo adscendente.

dente. *Styli* terminales, continui. *Achenium* stylo toto persistenti aristatum. *Embryo* erectus. *Habitus fere, nec omnino* Gei, *quod differt* stylis geniculatis articulo superiore dissimili sæpiusque deciduo. Brown in Suppl. to Parry's Voy. p. 276.

1. *S. paradoxa*, foliis fasciculatis linearibus obtusis sessilibus integris 3- v. 5-fidis, floribus subcorymbosis, stylis plumosis, caule fruticoso. TAB. XXII. Fig. 7.

Geum plumosum. Sesse et Mocinno Mss.

Habitat in Mexico. Sesse et Mocinno. 2. (v. s. sp. in Herb. Lamb.)

Frutex erectus, ramosissimus, rigidus. *Rami* teretes, pilosi, supernè foliis ferè destituti, apice 1—3-flori. *Folia* parva, fasciculata, linearia, sessilia, obtusissima, simplicia v. sæpiùs trifida aut quinquefida, coriacea, suprà pilosa, subtùs, cum junioribus omninò, ferrugineo-lepidota, margine integerrima et revoluta. *Stipulæ* parvæ, lineari-lanceolatæ, acutæ, ciliatæ. *Flores* subcorymbosi, pedunculosi, magni, speciosi, aurei. *Calyx* amplus, 10-fidus, disco dilatatus, concavus, extùs pube ferrugineâ densè vestitus: *laciniis* ovatis, concavis, mucronatis, nunc tricuspidatis, margine integerrimis; *alternis* accessoriis, minimis, lanceolatis, acutis, rarò apice bidentatis. *Petala* 5, obovata, emarginata, subpersistencia, fauci calycis inserta. *Stamina* numerosissima, persistentia, triplici serie fauci calycis inserta. *Receptaculum* conicum, densè pilosum. *Ovaria* indefinita (60—100), hirsutissima: *ovulo* adscendente. *Styli* totidem, terminales, continui, longissimi, valdè plumosi. *Achenia* ovata, stylo longissimo plumoso toto persistenti aristata, *testâ* coriaceâ: *albumen* nullum. *Embryo* erectus, lacteus: *cotyledones*



Don, David. 1825. "Description of Cowania, a new Genus of Plants; and of a new Species of Sieversia." *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London* 14, 573–577. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1095-8339.1823.tb00104.x>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/19637>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1095-8339.1823.tb00104.x>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/32065>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.