

XV. A NEW SPECIES OF KNEIFFIA.

BY OTTO E. JENNINGS.

Kneiffia sumstinei n. sp. Sumstine's Sundrops.

Stems simple, somewhat shrubby, about 3.5 dm. high, ascending from the base, or nearly erect, densely hairy above, with very widely spreading, or mainly reflexed, stiff, silvery hairs, 2-3 mm. in length. Leaves entire, 3-6 cm. long, .5-1.2 cm. wide, stiff and ascending, the lower slightly hairy, linear-obovate, rounded at the apex, at the base narrowed into a margined petiole from the attachment of which striations run down the stem. Upper leaves becoming lanceolate or ovate-acuminate, sessile, very densely hairy on both sides, with widely spreading, or reflexed, silvery hairs 1-1.5 mm. long. Flowers 8-12, diurnal, bright yellow, erect in the bud, in the axils of bracts as large as the upper leaves and similar to them, aggregated into a rather dense corymbose inflorescence; calyx-tube linear-funnel-form, prolonged 1-1.4 cm. beyond the ovary, sparsely pubescent, calyx segments reflexed in flower, lanceolate, about as long as the tube, tips linear, 2-3 mm. long, erect, or ascending from widely diverging bases, the tips and the upper fourth of the calyx-segments tomentose-pubescent; petals obcordate, 2.2-2.5 cm. long, 2 cm. wide; stamens of equal length, or very nearly so, about two thirds the length of the petals; style slightly longer than the stamens, the lobes of the stigma linear, widely spreading, 4-6 mm. long. Mature capsule not seen; ovary sessile, oblong to slightly obovate, faintly winged, densely pubescent with ascending hairs. Dry upland field near Kittanning, D. R. Sumstine, June, 1905. Type specimens in the Pennsylvania Herbarium of the Carnegie Museum. Acc. No. 2905.

This species is evidently nearly related to *Kneiffia fruticosa* (Linnaeus) Raimann, perhaps more closely to *Kneiffia fruticosa pilosella* (Rafinesque-Schmaltz) Britton, but in general appearance it is quite different, the strictly simple habit, the large leafy bracts, and the more densely aggregated inflorescence serving to differentiate it at once. Further differences are apparent in the mostly reflexed, silvery



Kneiffia sumstinei Jennings.

pubescence, and the widely diverging, tomentose-pubescent calyx tips. In the dried specimens at least, there is no discernible inequality in the length of the stamens, the species thus apparently overstepping what is usually regarded as a generic character. Prof. D. R. Sumstine, by whom the specimens were collected, reported the species as growing very abundantly in a field on a hill-top near Kittanning and in September last the writer, hoping to secure mature capsules, made a diligent but unsuccessful search in the locality indicated, but it was found that the field had been mowed and all weeds destroyed. It is hoped that in another year mature fruit may be collected and studied.

In Plate XIX. are shown a figure of the plant one half natural size, and figures of the unopened bud and of the flower with the petals removed, each natural size.

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