MIRANDACELTIS, A NEW GENUS FROM MEXICO (1)

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In the course of many discussions concerning the flora of Mexico, the eminent botanist, Dr. Faustino Miranda, called my attention to a Mexican *Celtis* which was significantly different from the rest of the genus. Subsequently I have had many opportunities to examine both collections made by him and previously-collected material now filed in various herbaria. As a result of these studies of the material until now called *Celtis monica*, I propose to erect a new genus to include this species and name it *Mirandaceltis* in honor of Dr. Faustino Miranda.

MIRANDACELTIS gen. nov.

Neuratio foliarium *Ulmo* persimilis; a *Celti* valde distat. Fructus drupa, oblongo-ovoideus, apiculatus, 10-12 mm. longus.

This genus differs from *Celtis* in the venation of the leaves which resembles that of *Ulmus* (figs. 1 and 2). The drupaceous fruit is also larger and less spherical than that usually found on *Celtis* (figs. 2 and 3).

Sterile material often is difficult to distinguish from *Ulmus* and there is considerable variation in leaf size and shape.

The single species known for this genus has previously been called *Celtis monoica*. I now propose its transfer to *Mirandaceltis* as the type species.

Mirandaceltis monoica (Hemsl.) comb. nov.

Celtis monoica Hemsl., Biol. Centr. Amer. Bot. 3: 139. pl. 77. 1883

For those unfamiliar with this species, I here present Hemsley's (1883) description:

Inermis, foliis penninerviis lanceolatis mucronatis supra nitidis, floribus omnibus in ramulis foliiferis, floribus fertilibus solitariis brevissime pedicellatis femineis, staminodiis nullis, ovario hirsuto.

(1) Contrib. from Bot. Lab., The University of Tennessee. N.S. 191.

Fig. 1. Twig with male flowers. Female flowers are less abundant and are frequently deciduous. (x 2/3).

Fig. 2. Twig with fruit (x 3/4).

Fig. 3. Mature fruit (x 5).

Arbor vel frutex inermis (sempervirens?), ramis gracilibus, minute denseque lenticellatis ramulis ultimis appresse pilosulis. **Folia** breviter petiolata, subcoriacea, lanceolata, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -4 poll. longa, aculeolato-acuminata, basi rotundata, saepe remotissime serrulata, prominenter penninervia, supra glaberrima, nitida, subtus plus minusve appresse pilosula; petiolum saepissime 2-3 lineas longus. **Flores masculini** breviter fasciculato-racemosi, fasciculis axillaribus; perianthii 5-partiti segmenta inaequalia, suborbicularia, extus pilosula; stamina 5, segmentis opposita. **Flores feminei** in axillis foliorum superiorum solitarii, brevissime pedicellati; perianthii segmenta oblongo-orbicularia, extus pilosula; stamina et staminodia nulla; ovarium hirsutum, stigmatibus indivisis. **Fructus** a nobis non visus.

The type was collected by Ervendberg (no. 321) near Tantoyuca, Huasteca, South Mexico, and is located at Kew.

Standley (1922) described this species as having a fruit with sharp tubercles. Search among the exsiccatae from the U. S. National Herbarium, which Standley used in his work, revealed a single specimen (Conzatti; Reko and Makrinus no. 3101 from Cafetal Concordia. Oaxaca. Apr. 1917) with a body resembling a spinose fruit (fig. 4). Closer examination,

however, proved it to be a gall. The fruit is smooth except for some wrinkling upon maturing and drying (figs. 2 and 3).

Fig. 4.—Left: Gall resembling a spinose fruit. Right: fruit.

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