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XVI. *Account of Ormosia, a new Genus of Decandrous Plants belonging to the Natural Order of Leguminosæ. By Mr. George Jackson, F.L.S.*

*Read February 6, 1810.*

AMONGST a fine collection of Guiana plants in the herbarium of A. B. Lambert, Esq. there are several specimens of a plant with velvety branches, rigid pinnate leaves, and papilionaceous flowers; the calyx bilabiate with the limb reflected, its upper lip supporting the vexillum, being two-lobed, and the lower lip three-parted: the stamens ten, separate, dilated towards the base, and alternately longer: the style incurved and ciliate, bearing two truncated unequal stigmas, the uppermost of which is largest, and incurved towards the other. The germen is ovate and pubescent, containing five seeds; the fruit a short oblique woody pod, opening with two valves, and containing in general only one perfect seed, but is also occasionally found with two: these are large, nearly oval, of a fine scarlet colour with a large black spot on one side. From these singular characters, noticed some time ago by Mr. Lambert, I was induced to examine some surrounding genera of the order, to endeavour to discover its congeners, affinities, and proper place in the series; and a plant with similar scarlet and black seeds being enumerated in the *Flora Guianensis* of Aublet, as a species of *Robinia*, but without any further description, a reference to the *Pseudo-acacia ingens, fructu coccineo, nigra*

*nigrâ maculâ notato*, of Plumier's Catalogue, and unpublished MSS. tom. 7, tab. 145 excepted; my first care was to endeavour to find out whether it might not be the same. That it was not the plant of Plumier I was well aware, a copy of his drawing of that, with many others of his unpublished drawings, being in the Sherardian collection at Oxford, and from which I had taken copies myself for Mr. Lambert. I was, however, still uncertain about the plant of Aublet, very erroneous and even heterogeneous synonymy being often adopted by the botanists of that age with very little scruple. Fortunately, however, his herbarium was at hand, being now in the possession of the Right Honourable Sir Joseph Banks; and on being favoured by Mr. Dryander with a sight of Aublet's original specimen, I found that Mr. Lambert's plant was the identical *Robinia coccinea*. Characters exactly similar I have since discovered in another nondescript plant from Guiana, communicated to Mr. Lambert by Mr. Anderson of St. Vincents; and also in the *Sophora monosperma* of Professor Swartz's *Prodrumus* and *Flora Indiæ Occidentalis*, of which the *Pseudo-acacia ingens fructu coccineo*, &c. of Plumier's drawings, above mentioned, is a very good representation; a plant essentially differing both from the original *Sophora* of Linnæus and the *Virgilia* and *Podalyria* of Lamarck, to the latter of which it has lately been referred by Mons. Poiret, as well as the *Edwardsia* of Mr. Salisbury, a very curious species of which, from South America, communicated by the late Professor Cavanilles, is also in Mr. Lambert's collection. From these three species, therefore, agreeing in habits and characters, and natives of nearly the same latitude, I have constituted a new genus, the characters of which, accompanied with sketches from the dried plants, I have now the honour to lay before the Society. The name *Ormosia*, by which I have distinguished it, is formed from the Greek *Ορμος*, *monile*, a necklace;

lace; their beautiful seeds, and particularly those of *O. dasycarpa*, commonly called in the West Indies *the bead-tree*, being worn as necklaces by the ladies.

The natural place of the genus appears to be in the vicinity of *Virgilia* and *Podalyria*; but the affinities are far from strong, and leave abundant room for intermediates on all sides; and from the unexplored tropical parts of America, many conterminal plants of the order are probably yet to be expected.

## ORMOSIA.

*Decandria Monogynia*, Linn.

*Leguminosæ*, Juss.

*Character Genericus.* Calyx bilabiatus, labio superiore bilobo, inferiore tripartito. Corolla papilionacea. Vexillum subrotundum, emarginatum, alis vix longius. Carina longitudine alarum, dipetala. Filamenta libera, basin versus dilatata. Stylus incurvus. Stigmata duo, unum supra alterum. Germen subovatum, 5-6-spermum. Legumen lignosum, compressum, bivalve, 1—3-spermum.

*Habitus.* Arbores. Rami ferrugineo-villosi. Folia stipulata, impari-pinnata. Stipulæ à petiolis distinctæ. Foliola nervosa, integerrima, 4—6-juga. Flores terminales, paniculati, cærulei vel purpurascens. Legumina lata, lignosa. Semina pauca, colorata, magna.

### 1. *ORMOSIA coccinea.*

TAB. XXV.

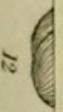
*O.* foliis impari-pinnatis, foliolis crassis subovatis, marginibus revolutis, utrinque nudis, 4—6-jugis; leguminibus glabris, nitidis.

Robinia

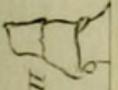
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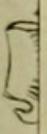
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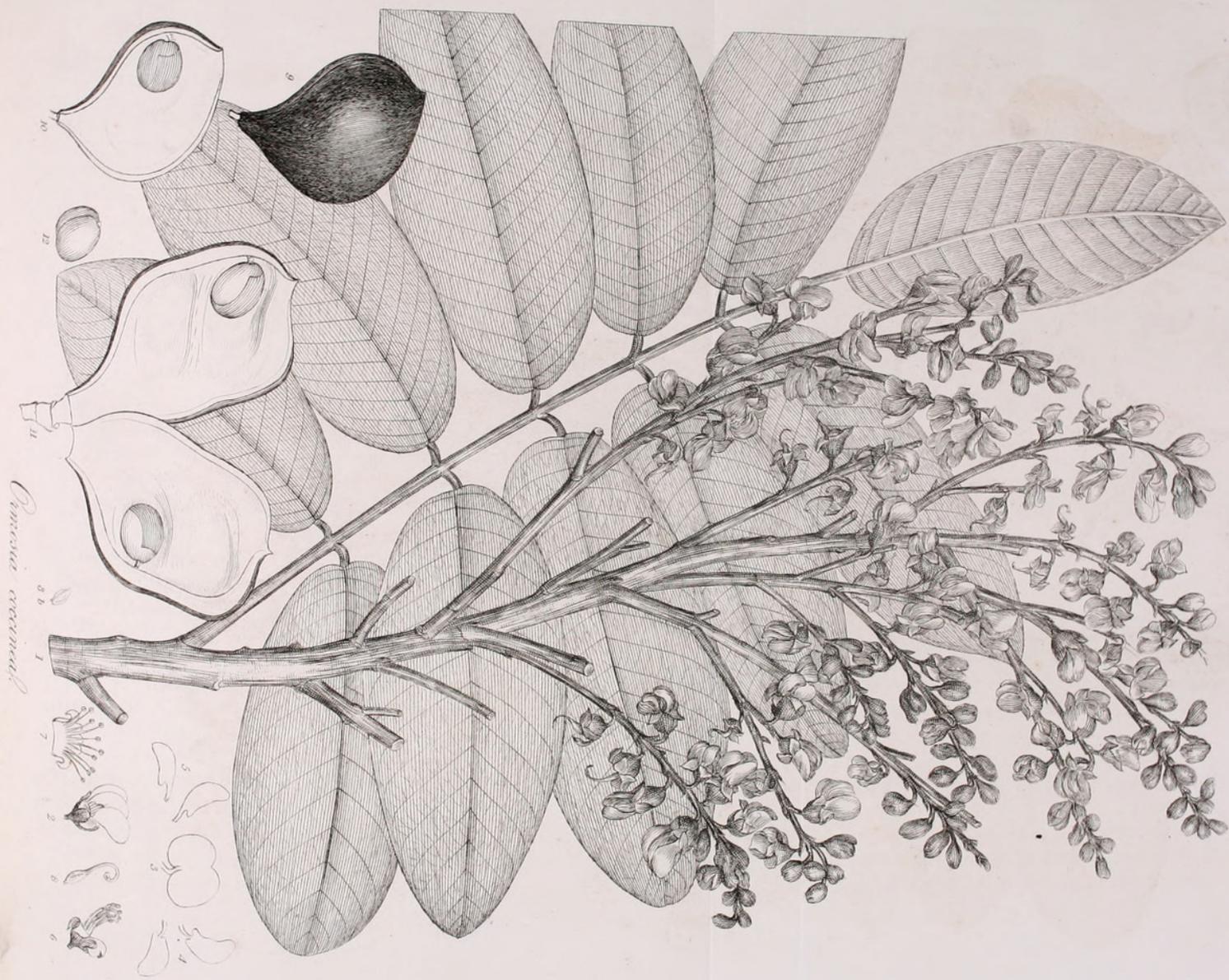


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*Proprietaria americana*



*Mimosa acuminata*

*Robinia coccinea.* *Aub. Flor. Guian.* 2. p. 773, sine synonymo Plumieri.

Habitat in Guianâ.

Arbor. Rami flexuosi è casu foliorum cicatricibus notati. Stipulæ angustæ, sericeæ, à petiolis distinctæ. Folia magna sæpè pedalia. Foliola rigida, nervosa et venulosa; suprâ nitidissima, subtùs subfusca. Nervi subtùs exstantes, suprâ depressi. Venulæ numerosæ, inter nervos obliquæ, iisque pari ratione subtùs elatæ, flexuosæ. Petioli *universales* villosi, suprâ leviter sulcati; *partiales* crassi, interdum ferè glabri. Paniculæ bracteata, pedales vel etiam ultrâ. Bracteæ subulatæ. Pedunculi, pedicelli et calyces villosi. Calyx basi turbinatus, limbo reflexus. Labium superius inferiore longius, bilobum. Petala omnia unguiculata. Vexillum utrinque emarginatum. Alæ obovato-falcata. Carina dipetala, petalis subfalcatis. Filamenta calyci inserta, quinque breviora. Antheræ subovata, utrinque emarginata, biloculares. Stylus incurvus, ciliatus. Stigmata truncata, inæqualia; superius majus, versus inferius incurvum. Germen striatum, villosum, 5-spermum. Legumen breve, durissimum et nitidissimum, brevissimè rostratum, basin versus obliquè attenuatum, 1- vel rariùs 2- spermum. Semina subovata, nitida, coccinea cum maculâ nigrâ. Integumentum seminis duplex, exterius coriaceum, interius membranaceum, albidum. Albumen nullum. Embryo semini conformis. Cotyledones plano-convexæ. Radicula centrifuga, exserta, subhemisphærica. Plumula nulla.

EXPLICATIO TABULÆ.

Fig. 1. Ramuli floriferi pars.

2. Flos sejunctus.

3. Vexillum.

3. Vexillum.
4. Alæ.
5. Carina.
6. Calyx, Stamina et Pistillum.
7. Calyx vi expansus cum Staminibus.
8. Pistillum. 8. b. Germinis sectio.
9. Fructus monospermus.
10. Idem intus visus, valvâ superiori amotâ.
11. Fructus dispermus vi expansus.
12. Embryo.

2. ORMOSIA *dasycarpa.*

TAB. XXVI.

O. foliis impari-pinnatis, foliolis 4-5-jugis, utrinque nudis, leguminibus ferrugineo-tomentosis.

Pseudo-acacia ingens, fructu coccineo, nigrâ maculâ notato.  
*Plum. Cat. p. 19, et MSS. cum Icone.*

Glycine arboreum, foliis oblongis, seminibus majoribus. *Brownè Jam. p. 298.*

Sophora monosperma. *Swartz Prod. et Flor. Ind. Occ. 2. p. 722.*  
*Willd. Sp. Pl. 2. p. 501.*

Podalyria monosperma. *Poiret in Encyc. Method. 5. p. 440.*

Habitat in Indiâ Occidentali.

EXPLICATIO TABULÆ.

- Fig.* 1. Rami fructiferi pars.  
2. Calyx cum Pistillo.  
3. Idem, pistillo exempto.  
4. Germinis sectio.

5. Legumen



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