

New Garden Plants.

Humata Tyermanii, Moore, n. sp.

Fronde deltoid, acuminate, glabrous, coriaceous, tripinnate; basal pinnæ obliquely-deltoid, the posterior portion larger, and again divided; secondary rachides narrowly winged; pinnules oblong, deeply pinnatifid, the lobes oblique, bearing usually a single sorus, with an external tooth; sori transversely oblong, terminal or seated in a fork of the venules; rhizome creeping; clothed with white, narrow, tapered, slightly-toothed scales; stipes semiterete. — Hab. West Coast of Africa.

This elegant little *Davallia*, which has been received by Mr. Tyerman from Western Africa, bears in many respects a close resemblance to *D. bullata*, the size, outline, and division of the fronds being very similar to those of that plant, but the fructification is quite different, being that of the *Humata*, not that of the *Eu-Davallia* group, while the rhizome, instead of being clothed with rich, golden-brown scales, as in *D. bullata*, has the scales of a silvery whiteness. The fronds, moreover, are not deciduous, as in *D. bullata*, but persistent, as in the related *Davallia dissecta*, and *D. decora* of Java. The African plant bears, indeed, a striking first-sight resemblance to the Indian *Davallia Griffithii*, which has fronds of the same form, combined with a white-scaled rhizome, but it is altogether larger, and the fructification is different.

The plant now before us (fig. 178), though a small-growing species, is much the largest of the *Humatas*, and with its elegant form, evergreen fronds, and white-scaled rhizomes, will be quite an acquisition for our Fern stoves, being especially suited for basket culture. The fronds measure about 7 inches in length from the setting on of the basal pinnæ to the apex, and are about 7 inches in width across the base; the basal anterior pinnule of the lowest pinnæ is barely an inch long, the basal posterior one an inch and a half, while the average length of the pinnules on the second pair of pinnæ is about half an inch. The stipes, which is reddish-brown towards the base, is, as well as the rachides, and both surfaces of the frond, quite glabrous, rounded behind, flat, with a rim at each margin in front. The veins are prominent on both surfaces, and the position of the sori is marked by boss-like protuberances on the upper surface. The short broad sori are covered by scale-like indusia, attached by the base only.

Mr. Tyerman, the excellent curator of the Liverpool Botanic Garden, himself a pteridologist of long standing, who has been the medium of introducing this charming plant to our gardens, well merits the compliment of having his name associated with it. Though technically a species of *Humata*, it is in a wider sense a *Davallia*, and will no doubt become best known to cultivators as *Davallia Tyermanii*. T. M.

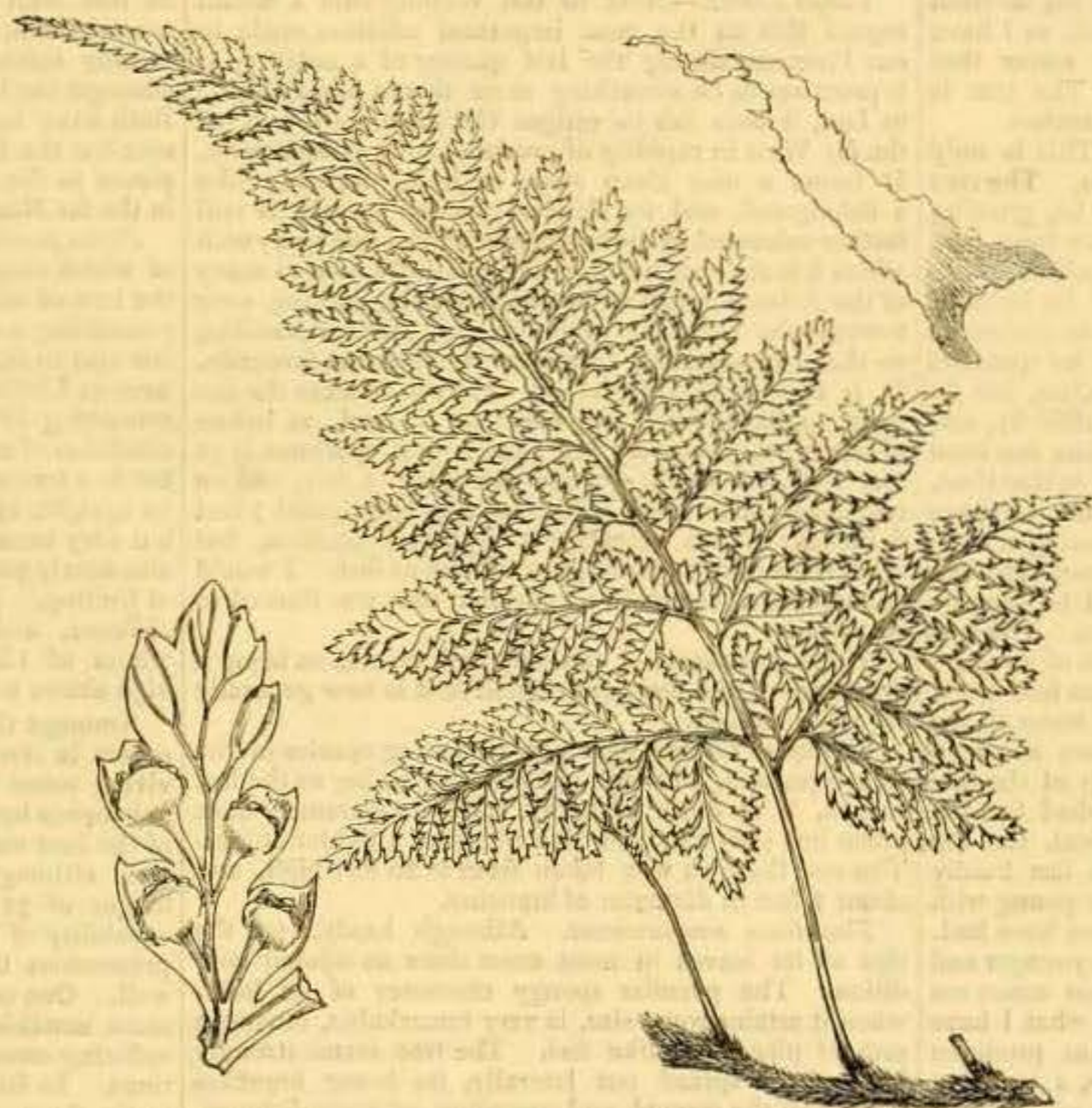


FIG. 178.—*HUMATA TYERMANII*.