STUDIES OF AMERICAN PLANTS – V

CYRUS LONGWORTH LUNDELL

In continuation of the exploration of Guatemala, under the sponsorship of the Lundell Herbarium, Elias Contreras has collected a fine series of specimens in Baja Verapaz and Izabal. The 1972 collections contain novelties and significant new plant records.

The flora of the great lowland rain forest at the base of the Yucatan Peninsula is still very inadequately known, for only the most accessible sectors have been visited by collectors. Even less is known about the forests of the foothills and mountain masses of adjacent areas of British Honduras and Guatemala.

CELASTRACEAE

Maytenus grisea Lundell, sp. nov. – Arbor excelsa; ramuli glabri; folia glabra, petiolata, petiolo 5–8 mm. longo, canaliculato; lamina coriacea, grisea, elliptica, oblongo-elliptica vel obovata, 8.5–18 cm. longa, 3–7 cm. lata, apice obtusa vel rotundata, basi acutiuscula, subintegra; pedicelli fructiferi 3–6 mm. longi, fasciculati; sepala parva, late ovata, 0.5–0.6 mm. longa, acuta, eroso-ciliolata; capsula ovoidea, usque ad 1.8 cm. longa, 1.5 cm. lata, grisea.

A giant tree, the branchlets rather slender, terete, glabrous, drying grayish; leaves rather large, petiolate, the petioles rather stout, corrugated, 5–8 mm. long, shallowly canaliculate; leaf blades elliptic, oblong-elliptic or obovate, 8.5–18 cm. long, 3–7 cm. wide, apex obtuse or rounded, base acutish, coriaceous, margin subentire, midvein narrow, elevated on both surfaces, the lateral veins very slender, sharply ascending, both surfaces drying grayish; flowers fascicled in the leaf axils and on old wood; pedicels of fruit stout, terete, enlarged at base, 3–6 mm. long, glabrous; sepals minute, thin, broadly ovate or triangular, 0.5–0.6 mm. long, much wider, acutish, the margin erose-ciliolate; immature dry fruits bladdery, thin walled, ovoid, up to 1.8 cm. long, 1.5 cm. wide, apex rounded or subtruncate, base rounded or depressed medially, vertically veiny, drying pale gray, loculicidally 2-valvate, 1-seeded, the erect immature seed arillate.