THE MACHRIS BRAZILIAN EXPEDITION

BOTANY: A New Dodder from Goiás, Cuscuta burrellii

By T. G. Yunker

Stems filiform, yellow or reddish when dry; flowers 5-parted, reddish-yellow in the dry state, about 4 mm. long from the base to the tip of the erect corolla lobes, on pedicels usually scarcely 1 mm. long, in compact several [5-8 or more] -flowered cymes; lower part of the calyx, the pedicels, and adjacent parts of the stem strongly papillate; calyx campanulate, deeply divided to near the base, the lobes ovate-lanceolate, overlapping at the base, medianly thickened, caudately acuminate, reaching the middle of the corolla lobes, or more; corolla shallowly campanulate, fleshy, papillate toward the base, deeply divided, the lanceolate, slenderly acuminate lobes much longer than the united basal part, erect [or spreading when fully mature?]; stamens short, in the sinuses of the corolla lobes, the ovate anther longer than the filament; infrastamineal scales reaching the stamens, strongly fringed, bridged at about the middle; styles terete, about equaling the ovoid ovary, the stigmas globose-capitate; capsule not seen.

Figs. a - d

Caules tenuissimi; flores 4 mm. longi breviter pedicellati in infloroscentibus compactis papillati; calycis lobi imbricati ovati-lanceolati longe-acuminatis; corollae lobi lanceolati acuminatissimi longiores quam tubus brevis campanulatus; squamae fimbriatae ad stamina attingentes; styli tenues aequantes ovarium ovoidum; stigmata globosa; capsula non visa.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

Brazil: Goiás: region of the Chapada dos Veadeiros at W. Long. 47° 30', S. Lat. 14° 30', on an open grassy hilltop about 2½ km. northeast of the road, 21 km, north of São João da Aliança, on herbaceous

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hosts, April 16, 1956, *E. Yale Dawson 14278* (type, in herb. R; duplicate types in herb. LAM and in herb. DPU).

No mature capsules are present on the material studied, and it is impossible to determine whether they remain closed or become circumscissile when mature. The other characters, however, are sufficiently distinctive, it is believed, to warrant considering the specimen as representing an undescribed species.

The deeply divided calyx and corolla, with long-pointed lanceolate lobes and strongly papillate parts are noteworthy characters. The material bears no close resemblance to any other known species. If the capsule proves to be circumscissile it would fall in the subsection Odontolepisae which includes, for the most part, Mexican and South American species. If, on the other hand, the capsule is not circumscissile, it would be best placed in the subsection Acutae comprising mostly South American species.

The specific name honors Mr. Harry F. Burrell, Expedition Cinematographer, whose collaboration with Dr. Dawson in the field led to the discovery of this plant.

*Cuscuta burrellii* Yunker n. sp. *a.* flower at early anthesis; *b.* interior view of opened corolla; *c.* ovary; *d.* infrastamineal scale in detail.