the floral leaves always from a very broad base caudate-acuminate, usually acute).

The curator of the Horticultural Section Herbarium in Cairo, Mr MOHAMMED DRAR, has later furnished me with very interesting material from the Isthmic desert, collected during his excursions in this region. Among his numerous finds I will only mention the following plants, which all are new to this region (compare P. RANGE, »Die Flora der Isthmuswüste», Berlin 1921, in Gesellschaft für Palästina-Forschung, 7. Veröffentlichung). When no other locality is indicated, the plants in question are collected in Wady el Gedirat.

Aizoon hispanicum L. *Astragalus sanctus* Boiss., el-Arish, new to the coast region. *Cerastium dichotomum* L., Rafa. *Eryngium glomeratum* Lam., Ain el Gedirat. *Erodium ciconium* Ait. *E. cicutarium* L'Her. *Helianthemum ellipticum* Pers. *Hypericum crispum* L., Rafa, flowers late in summer. *Lathyrus Aphaca* L. *L. marmoratus* Boiss. et Blanche. *Malva silvestris* L. *Plantago notata* Lag. *P. stricta* Schousb. *Reseda alba* L., el-Arish, Wady el Gedirat. *Roemeria hybrida* DC., el-Arish, new to the coast region. *Silene colorata* Poir.

The following new species is collected by him in Wady el Gedirat.

Scorzonera Drarii V. Täckholm n. sp.

Herba perennis, radice tuberosa, (in specimine viso) 5 cm longa, 3,5 cm crassa. Caulis circ. 5 cm altus, basi albo-lanatus, superne glaber. Folia pleraque rosulata, glabra, petiolo alato, 1—2 cm longo computato, 3—5 cm longa, lamina lanceolata, acuta, in statu sicco margine crispata.

Capitulum solitarium, floribus purpureis. Involucri phylla glabra, anguste scarioso-marginata, exteriora ovata, apice triangulari obtusa, interiora e basi lata, sensim angustata, apice obtusa.

Corollae (in specimine viso) tubo computato 23 mm longae. Ligula 2 mm lata, vulgo manifeste 4-nervis, apice truncata et 5-dentata. Tubus antherarum 4,5 mm longus, glaber; stylus glaber, ramis 5 mm longis, pilosis, apice recurvatis. Pappus (sub anthesi) e setis formatus 7 mm longis numerosis plumosis et 5 longioribus, 10 mm longis, scabris. Achaenium (sub anthesi) 2 mm longum, ovulo 1,5 mm longo (maturum non visum).

Collected in Wady el Gedirat, Isthmic desert, 13—15th March 1930 by M. DRAR.

Scorzonera Drarii differs from the closely allied *S. alexandrina* Boiss. and *S. undulata* Vahl by its huge, broad root (not small

globose with a narrow tubular neck), from *S. alexandrina* also by its lanceolate (not linear) leaves and from *S. undulata* by its shortly ovate (not slowly attenuate-acuminate) outer involucral scales. From *S. suberosa* C. Koch, which is the only purple-flowering species with a similar root, *S. Drarii* differs by lanceolate (not linear) leaves.

Another interesting plant which ought to be mentioned in connection with the Isthmic desert is *Euphorbia erinacea* Boiss. et Kotschy. It was taken in Wady el Gedirat in 1930 by a physi-

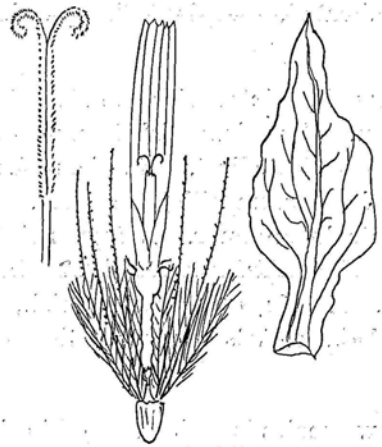

Fig. 4. *Scorzonera Drarii* V. Täckh. n. sp., flower, leaf and a detail of the style.

cian, who noted that the bedouins employed the root as a purge. Specimens were given to the Horticultural and Botanical sections in Cairo, from where I got specimens for determination. It is the first time this plant is found in Egypt.

The above mentioned records show how incomplete is our knowledge about the flora of this boundary region. It is to be hoped that the numerous botanists in Egypt and Palestine will continue their interesting exploring.

The mountain region South of the Isthmic desert is perhaps better known, from botanical point of view, because of the many tourists and pilgrims who visit the monasteries in this neighbourhood every year. The most beautiful collections ever made in this place were made by the recently deceased Suiss explorer, Alfred Kaiser from Arbon, who spent a great part of his life in these mountains and even tried to raise a scientific observatory in one of the valleys.

Photo R. Florin.

Fig. 5. *a. Otostegia Kaiseri* V. Täckh. n. sp. *b. Ballota Kaiseri* V. Täckh. n. sp. *c. Crucianella membranacea* Boiss. v. *decussata* V. Täckh. n. var. *d. Trifolium curvisepalum* V. Täckh. n. sp. *e. Scorzonera Drarii* V. Täckh. n. sp. — 1/2.

After his death, in 1930, his large botanical collections, according to his last will, were given to Herbarium Boissier in Geneva. It is perhaps the largest and most complete herbarium of Sinai-plants anywhere existing, and besides it is beautifully conserved, which makes this collection still more valuable for science.

By the very kind permission of Prof. R. CHODAT at the University of Geneva, to whom I owe great thanks for his everlasting courtesy and help, these collections were put to my disposal for determination.

One of the most striking finds in this collection was that of *Epipactis veratrifolia* Boiss. et. Hoh. It is the first time an orchid is found within the Egyptian boundaries. Among other new plants may be mentioned: *Althaea rufescens* Boiss., *Ballota saxatilis* Sieb., *Euphorbia cyparissias* L., *Sageretia Brandrethiana* Aitch., *Veronica Velenovskyi* Uechtr., *Viola tricolor* L., a hybrid between *Verbascum Schimperianum* Boiss. and *Celsia parviflora* Decne (det. S. MURBECK) etc. In this paper I will only describe two new *Labiatae*-plants, to both of which I have given his name.

Ballota Kaiseri V. Täckholm n. sp.

Suffrutex (frutex?), pallide viridis, totus dense fasciculato-pilosus et glandulosus, ramis longis, virgatis. Folia (tantum modo floralia visa) parva, cymas non superantia, reniformia, vix duplo latiora quam longa, grosse crenata, nervis supra immersis, subtus emersis, petiolo circ. 2 mm longo.

Cymae subsessiles, contractae, multiflorae, verticillastros densos globosos formantes, internodiis 2—4 cm longis. Bracteae 2—3 mm longae, lineares. Calyx infundibuliformis, tubo 7 mm longo, 10-costatus, costis intus glabris, prope apicem fasciculo pilorum ornatis et summo apice inflatis, limbo subrotato, 10-dentato, dentibus obtusiusculis.

Corolla in statu sicco cremea, longe exserta. Labium inferius 3-lobum, lobis obtusis, intermedio caeteris longiore, tubo intus annula pilorum vel

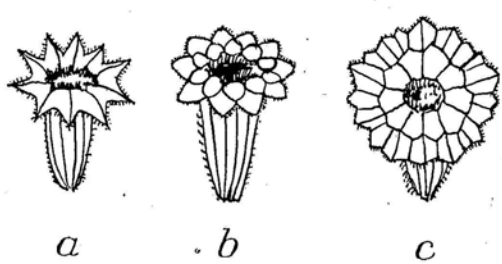

Fig. 6. Calyx of *a. Ballota saxatilis* Sieb. *b. Ballota Kaiseri* V. Täckh. n. sp. *c. Ballota undulata* Benth.