



117. TWO SIMPLE LEAVES, SECTION OF THE JOINTED TRUNK, SPATHE AND OLD SPADIX of the small and slender *Bactris paula*.

when the persisting floral envelope at base of fruit is examined, on the interior are no remains of them, the inside of the envelope being only prominently veined. The envelopes are not strongly accrescent or enlarging, and they form a very small body not inclosing the narrow base of the fruit, the small lobes usually divaricate or even somewhat reflexed. These features are distinct from the period of the pistillate flower-bud to the fully grown fruit, and need not be mistaken.

Pistillate flower-bud in subgenus *Pyrenoglyphis* is mostly larger, conical rather than columnar, the corolla little if at all exceeding the calyx. If the corolla-tube is opened one may expect to find within it something like an inner corolla or continuous apron-like membrane supposed to be a staminodal ring; this inner structure persists in the cupule of the mature fruit and is readily observed. These features are shown in Fig. 114. The cupule itself is distinctly accrescent, forming a prominent permanent covering for the broad base of the fruit, as an acorn sits in its cup.

Karsten finds a ring inside the calyx-cup as well as inside the corolla-cup of *Bactris major* but I have not observed it; he calls these two organs half-calyx and half-corolla respectively (*halbe kelch, halbe blumenkrone*; *Floræ Columbiae*, ii, p. 142, 1869).

† *Bactris paula*, spec. nov. Fig. 117.

Gracillima, pluribus vel multis culmiformibus truncis 2-2.5 m. altis et 1 cm. vel minus crassis, spinæ paucæ et mox evanescentes; nodi 4-5 cm. inter se distantes, internodi glabri et nudi: folia circa 3 ad culmum, simplicia, bilobata apice, molli-pubescentia subter, glabra supra et conspicuis venis transversis, costa media absens, aliæ costæ plures et prominentes; lobi 25 cm. longi, 7-8 cm. lati, apex longo-acuminatus, margines plus vel minus scabri: cymba 8-9 cm. longa, circa 3 cm. lata, sparse tecta setosis bulbosisque pilis: fructus globularis, læte ruber vel aurantio-coccineus, rostrum brevissimum.

Very slender with 3-6 or sometimes 10 culm-like stems or canes in a group or colony, 2-2.5 m. tall; trunk or cane less than 1 cm. thick, glabrous and smooth, nodes 4-5 cm. apart; plant bearing a few slender spines that soon weather away, leaving it nude: leaves usually 3 to a culm and near the top of it, simple but deeply bilobed, soft-pubescent underneath, glabrous above and with broken cross lines between the many prominent veins, midrib lacking on the lobes or divisions; lobes of leaf 25 m. long and 7-8 cm. broad, apex long-acuminate, margins with apiculate points; petiole 5-8 cm. long, scurfy-pubescent as well as the rachis; leaf-sheath narrow, striate, pubescent: cymba 8-9 cm. long, about 3 cm. broad at maturity, thinly covered with setose white-bulbose brown hairs: fruit globular, beak short, bright red or orange-scarlet, about 12 mm. diam.

Heavy forest, where it is infrequent, vicinity of La Mesa, El Valle de Anton, Province Coclé, about 1,000 m. elevation, *Allen 2567* (type), *2695*.