

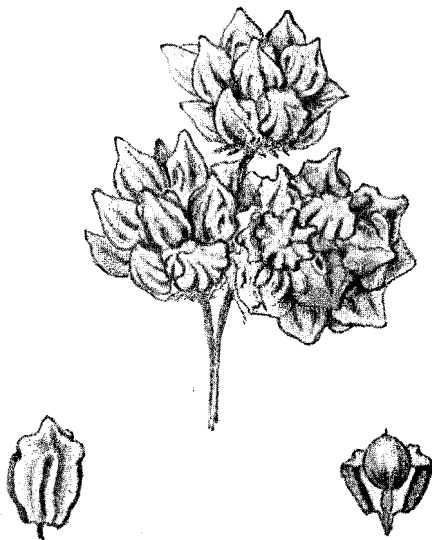
On *Chionanthus Ghaeri*, Gaertn. By J. G. BOERLAGE.
(Communicated by the PRESIDENT.)

[Read 7th February, 1895.]

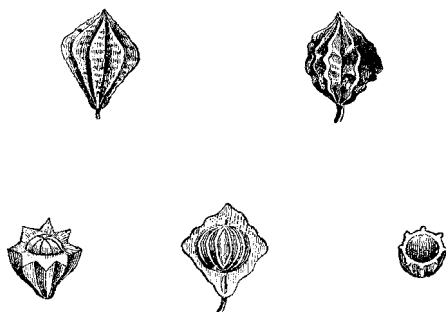
THE figures in Joseph Gaertner's famous work 'De Fructibus et Seminibus Plantarum,' published at the end of the last century, have not all been recognized. Several of them, especially those which were drawn from incomplete materials, have remained more or less dubious. Such is the case with *Chionanthus Ghaeri*, Gaertn. Nobody considers it to be a *Chionanthus*. In DeCandolle's 'Prodromus,' viii. p. 295, and also in Hooker's 'Flora of British India,' iii. p. 611, it is mentioned as an obscure species. Gaertner relates (i. p. 189) that the fruit figured by him at t. xxxix. fig. 6*, had been received from the collection of seeds in the Leyden Museum. This collection was placed afterwards in 's Ryck's [State] Herbarium, where I found the original materials of the *Chionanthus Ghaeri*; so that I am now able to lift the veil which has hitherto enveloped it. The fruits are accompanied by a ticket on which is written at one side No. 99, Gierietette, at the other side $\frac{99}{1758}$. I suppose that the fruits belonged to a collection brought together in Ceylon in the year 1758. A part of that collection had been sent to Gaertner, containing other species mentioned by him as *Syzygium Idrakul*, *Idrorinda umbellata*, &c. I have some doubt whether the ticket originally belonged to the fruits; some confusion of tickets may have happened, for I find in Hermann's Herbarium a real *Chionanthus*, *C. zeylanicus*, Linn., with the name "Ghaeriatta ghas." Now *ghas* being a common native name for several plants and *ette* for fruits or seeds, it may be that Ghaeriatta and Gieriet are only different spellings of the same name. But it is certain that ticket and fruits have been together for a long time, and that Gaertner had received his specimen with the name. The close agreement of the figure with the fruits leaves no doubt regarding their mutual identity. I am thus enabled to state that *Chionanthus Ghaeri*, Gaertn., not only has to be excluded

* This figure is reproduced in Lamarck, 'Dictionnaire de Botanique,' tab. 9 (*Chionanthus*, fig. 3).

from the genus and also from the family, but even from the Dicotyledonous plants, being a Cyperacea, viz. *Scirpodendron costatum*, Kurz.



Scirpodendron costatum, Kurz.
Specimen authenticum, ad nat.



Chionanthus Ghaeri.

From J. Gaertner, 'De Fructibus et Seminibus Plantarum,' tab. xxxix.

It is very remarkable that this plant, discovered for the first time in Ceylon in the year 1758, was not mentioned as an

indigenous species of that island until a century afterwards, in 1864, by Thwaites in his 'Enumeration of Ceylon Plants,' where it is called *Hypolythrum costatum*, Thw. Probably it is a somewhat rare plant, though its area of dispersion is very large, the species extending to Singapore, Penang, Java, Australia, and Samoa. On the last-named island the fruits are eaten by the natives.
