

UMBELLIFERÆ.

Sium burchellii, Hemsl. (Plate XLVIII. C, figs. 5-7).

Sium burchellii, Hemsl.

Lichtensteinia burchellii, Hook. f. in Hook. Ic. Pl., xi. t. 1033 (incorrect as to the fruit); Melliss, St Hel., p. 278, t. 33.

ST HELENA.—Endemic. Diana's Peak—*Burchell*, 92; near Taylor's Flat to the westward of Diana's Peak—*Melliss*.

“Dwarf Angelica.”

After a careful comparison of all the materials accessible, we have no doubt that this was erroneously referred to the genus *Lichtensteinia*, and we strongly suspect that it is not specifically different from *Sium helenianum*, but merely a stunted condition of that plant; yet, as we have only young fruit of *Sium burchellii*, we cannot be sure. There seems to have been some confusion of the two forms and perhaps a third. The obvious divergences of the two forms, whatever their rank, are in stature and in the length and shape of the fruit. *Sium burchellii* grows only three to five feet high, and has a longer, narrower fruit, with prominent, corky juga; while *Sium helenianum* grows from eight to twelve feet high, and has a shorter, thicker fruit, with less corky and more angular juga. These differences may be due to habitat, for *Sium helenianum* is said to grow amongst the “Cabbage-trees” and ferns in the ravines that traverse the mountain sides of Diana's Peak; whereas *Sium burchellii*, according to Melliss, inhabits the southern precipitous sides of the high central ridge, and is now very rare. The fruit of *Sium burchellii*, taken from the type specimens, has no vittæ under or in the juga; and the number of vittæ in the valleys is usually two, but varies from one to three in different fruits, or different valleys of the same fruit; when there is only one it is relatively large. In *Sium helenianum* the number of vittæ in each valley seems to be constantly three. Other reasons why we think they are forms of one species are—our inability to sort the specimens into two species, and the fact that neither Roxburgh nor Burchell, both of whom were good botanists (and the latter spent five years in the island), recognised more than one species. Further, Melliss sent specimens to Kew, collected by Mr Chalmers¹ near Diana's Peak, with the note, “appears to be different from *Sium helenianum* and *Lichtensteinia burchellii*.” This intermediate form strengthens the view that the original types of the two forms are merely states of the same species. Loose fruits sent by Mr Melliss as *Lichtensteinia burchellii* are exactly the same as loose fruits sent by him under the name of *Sium helenianum*, and both the same as typical fruit of the latter; so he, we may infer, was unable to distinguish the supposed species on the spot. On the other hand, Mr D. Morris, who visited the island in 1883, was of opinion that there were two distinct species, though we may add he collected only one. Melliss's 46 has the following note: “This is the plant that Burchell gathered. It grows on the Central Ridge,

¹ Mr John Chalmers was sent out in 1868 to establish the Cinchona plantations, which have been since abandoned.