

G O S

Ægypti, 71. Pliny makes it a Latin word, though the more common name he says is Xylon; the Greek ξυλον.—Linn. Gen. 355. Schreb. 468. Willd. Sp. Pl. v. 3. 803. Cavan. Diff. fasc. 6. 309. Mart. Mill. Dict. v. 2. Ait. Hort. Kew. v. 2. 453. Juss. 274. Lamarck. Illustr. t. 586. Gærtn. t. 134. (Xylon; Tourn. t. 27.)—Clafs and order, *Monadelphia Polyandria*. Nat. Ord. *Columnifera*, Linn. *Malvaceæ*, Juss.

Gen. Ch. *Cal.* Perianth double: the outer of one leaf, three-cleft, flattish, largest: inner of one leaf, cup-shaped, with five blunt notches. *Cor.* Petals five, inversely heart-shaped, flat, spreading, attached to the tube of the stamens by their base. *Stam.* Filaments numerous, connected in their lower part into a tube, separate and lax above, inserted into the corolla; anthers kidney-shaped. *Pist.* Germen superior, roundish; style columnar, as long as the stamens; stigmas three or four, oblong, thickish. *Peric.* Capsule roundish, pointed, with three or four cells and as many valves, with contrary partitions. *Seeds* numerous, oval, fringed and enveloped with long wool.

Eff. Ch. Calyx double; the outer three-cleft. Capsule with three or four cells. Seeds enveloped in wool.

The species of Cotton, like those of all plants cultivated from the most remote antiquity, in various countries, for economical purposes, are extremely difficult to define, and obscured by numerous varieties.

Linnæus in Sp. Pl. ed. 1, defines three species only,

1. *G. herbaceum*. Camer. Epit. 203. Cavan. t. 164. f. 2, supposed to be a native of the Levant, East Indies, and Africa, and generally cultivated in those countries for its produce.—Leaves five-lobed, pointed, with one gland beneath. Stem herbaceous, nearly smooth.—This is annual, with a bushy, branched, often zig-zag stem, smooth or only slightly downy. *Leaves* cut half-way down into three principal, and two smaller lateral, pointed rounded lobes. The mid-rib bears one gland at its back, about half an inch from the stalk. *Flowers* yellow, purple at the base. *Capsule* the size of a walnut, enveloped in the calyx like a silberd.

2. *G. barbadense*, taken up from Plukenet, t. 188. f. 1. Leaves three-lobed, entire, with three glands beneath.—Supposed to be a native of Barbadoes. It is at least one of those cultivated in the West Indies. The plant is in all its parts larger than the foregoing; lobes of the *leaves* not near so deep.

3. *G. arboreum*. Cavan. t. 165. Pluk. t. 188. f. 3. (Cudu-pariti; Rheede Hort. Mal. v. 1. 55. t. 31.)—Leaves palmate, five-lobed; lobes lanceolate. Stem shrubby.—Native of the East Indies in a sandy soil. The woody perennial stem, and deep-cut long-lobed leaves, whose mid-rib bears one gland, distinguish this. The flowers are reddish. The cotton is used in manufactures. Willdenow erroneously quotes Alpinus here.

His *Cotnemesgiar* is in the Plant. Ægypt. t. 71, not his Exot. t. 38, and does not agree with the East Indian plant.

To these is added in Sp. Pl. ed. 2. 975,

4. *G. hirsutum*. Cavan. t. 167. Leaves with three or five acute lobes. Stem branched, hairy.—The synonym of Tournefort is wrong.—This is said to come from America. It appears to us a hairy variety of the first, for the gland on the mid-rib, which Linnæus thought an exclusive mark of *hirsutum*, is found in both.

What Linnæus intended by *G. religiosum*, Syst. Nat. ed. 12. v. 2. 462, is rather doubtful. He defines it—“Leaves three-lobed, acute, with one gland beneath. Branches dotted with black.”—We have an East Indian plant which answers to this definition, but it does not agree

GÓSSYPIUM, in *Botany*, the Cotton plant. The name is supposed by the learned to be of Egyptian origin, and if so, is akin to *Cotnemesgiar*, or *Gotnemesgiar*, the evident source of our word Cotton, which is given as the Egyptian appellation of the plant in Alpinus, de Plantis

agree

agree with what he has marked *religiosum* in his own herbarium, which appears to us *barbadense*; though it may be what he had in his garden.

With the *latifolium* of Murray, Comm. Gott. for 1776. t. 1, we are unacquainted.—Cavanilles figures and describes several more species, especially *G. nitifolium*, t. 166, a noble plant, from Commerfon's herbarium, gathered in the Mauritius.—Willdenow, adopting these, reckons ten species in all, but the synonyms of the whole genus require revision.