

## ZAMIA PYGMÆA. LEAST ZAMIA.

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*Class and Order.*

DIOECIA POLYANDRIA.

*Generic Character.*

MASC. *Amentum* strobiliforme. *Cal.* squama obovata. *Cor.* o.  
*Anthere* globosæ, rima dehiscentes, in squama sessiles.

FEM. *Ament.* strobiliforme. *Cal.* squamæ peltatæ. *Cor.* o.  
*Germina* 2. *Styli* o. *Baccæ* 2, 1-spermæ.

*Specific Character.*

ZAMIA *pygmæa*; glaberrima, foliolis subdecemjugis ovatis obliquis imbricatis apice ferrulatis, stipite tereti, amento ovato nutante.

DESCR. Male plant. *Fronde* abruptly pinnate, about a span long, on rounded footstalks: *leaflets* not entirely opposite, ovate, with the upper margin straighter and ferrulate about one-third down from the point: lower more curved and ferrulate half way, thence to the base quite entire, shining, attached to the rachis by a cartilaginous articulation, about ten pair, so close together as somewhat to overlap one another: rachis double grooved on the upper, rounded on the under side. *Amentum* ovate, on a short thick peduncle turned to one side: scales obsoletely hexagonal, bearing a number of globular white anthers on the under and lower sides, some of which, when the flower is perfect, appear at the crevices between the scales. The female plant we have not seen.

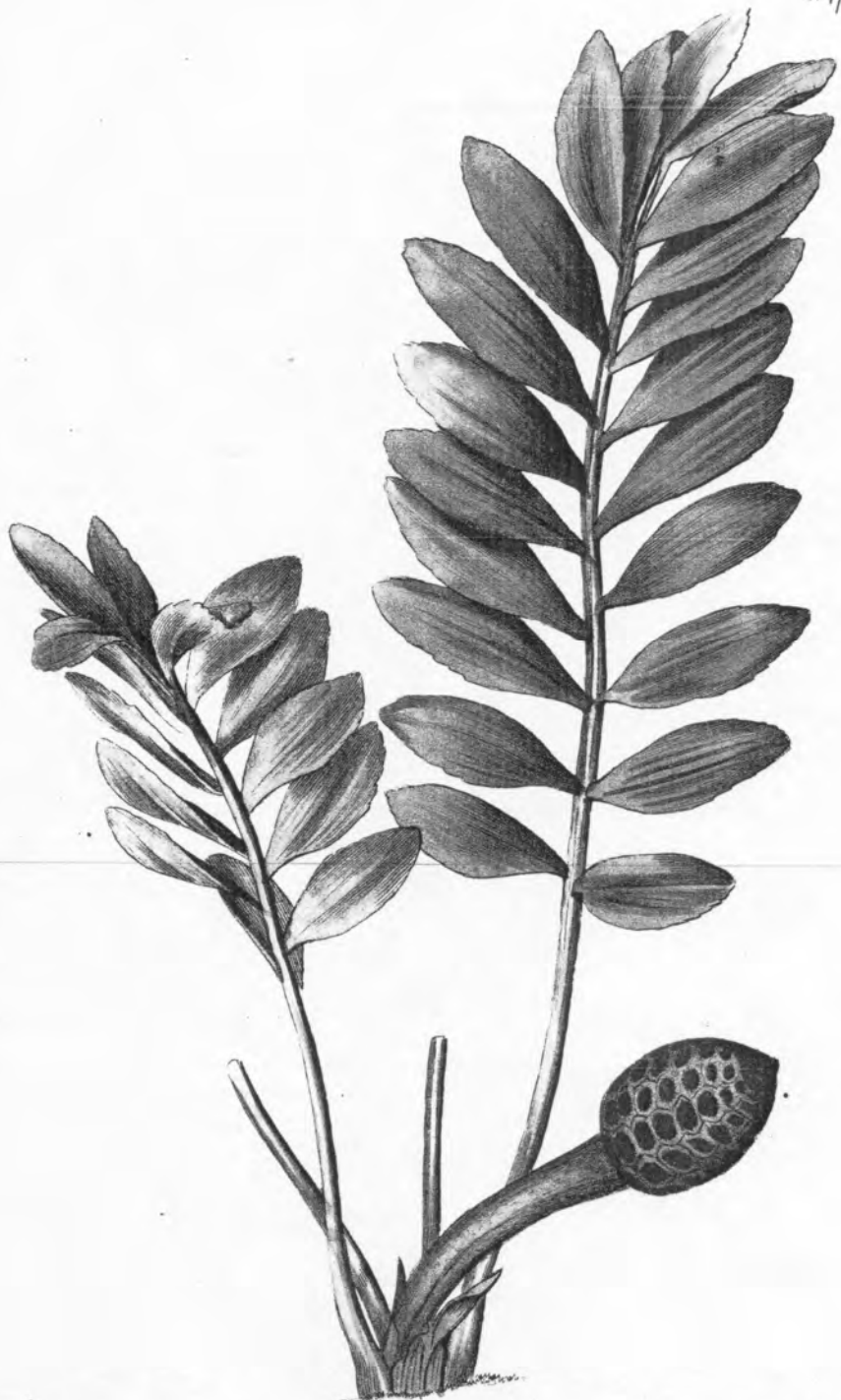
LINNÆUS, in his *Fragments of Natural Orders*, inserted both ZAMIA and CYCAS with the *Palmæ*; but, in his *System*, he arranged them with the *Filices*; in which family they were retained by JUSSIEU. PERSOON and BROWN make a distinct order of them, under the name of *Cycadææ*.

Communicated by Messrs. LODDIGES and SONS, flowering early in May. An imported plant; native of the West-Indies.

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The propagation of PALMS in general is very difficult. Some species of *Zamia* and *Cycas* may indeed be increased by division; but of forty-two species of Palms, including *cycadeæ*, under cultivation, at the present time, in the stoves of Messrs. LODDIGES and SONS, not more than nine can be propagated in this way; the rest must all be raised from seeds, which should be sown as soon as gathered, or imported alive from the tropical climes of which they are natives. We are also informed by Mr. GEORGE LODDIGES, that the whole family likes a sandy light soil, which will not retain the water, but suffer it to drain off freely: and that their heads should be kept in a warm humid atmosphere. But every attempt to keep up the heat of the stove to a stated degree, he considers as absurd, as even the hottest climates vary extremely; and their stoves at Hackney not unfrequently have a temperature of  $120^{\circ}$  and as low as  $60^{\circ}$ , in the same day; and this change is so far from injuring their inhabitants, that these are manifestly benefited thereby.

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Collected by S. Carter Macomber June 1885

H. W. H. Co.