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A NEW VARIETY OF CABOMBA CAROLINIANA GRAY

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Cabomba caroliniana Gray var. **paucipartita** Ramsh. et Florsch. nov. var.

A varietate typica differt foliis submersis in lacinias 20–60 (plerumque 20–40) 1–1,8 mm latas divisis.

Typus in herb. Utrecht, cultivated in aquaria.

The new variety differs from the type mainly in the number of terminal leafsegments (20–60 only, and mostly 20–40) and in the greater width of the latter (1–1,8 mm). Sometimes, especially in the basal parts of the plants, leaves are found with 3–20 terminal segments only. As far as we know, it occurs only in cultivation, but here it is, at least in aquaria in the Netherlands and in Germany, very common. Up to some time ago *Cabomba aquatica Aubl.*, with very finely dissected leaves and yellow flowers, and the new variety were the only *Cabombae* cultivated in aquaria. The new variety went under the name of *C. caroliniana.* However, suspicion as to the correctness of this identification was raised when the first author received a plant whose leaves were divided into many long and narrow segments, and which grew much easier than *C. aquatica.* The larger leaves of this plant

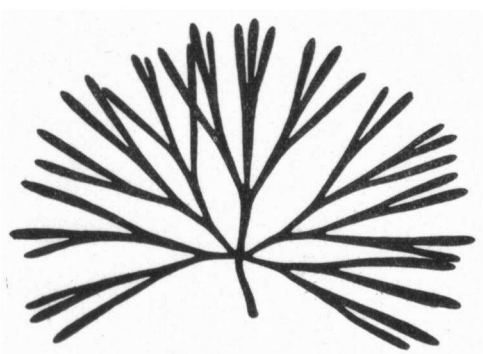

Fig. 1

show 80–150 terminal segments, which are 0,4–1 mm wide, but in the basal parts of the plant sometimes some smaller and less strongly dissected leaves are found. After some time flowers appeared, and

these proved to agree entirely with the flowers of the plants cultivated under the name *C. caroliniana.*

Cabomba caroliniana is described in detail by the late NORMAN C. FASSETT in his monograph of the genus (Castanea 18: 116–128. 1953). It has far more numerous leafsegments, and the latter are but 0,3–0,8 mm wide. No species or variety with the flowers of *C. caroliniana* in combination with the broad terminal leafsegments of our

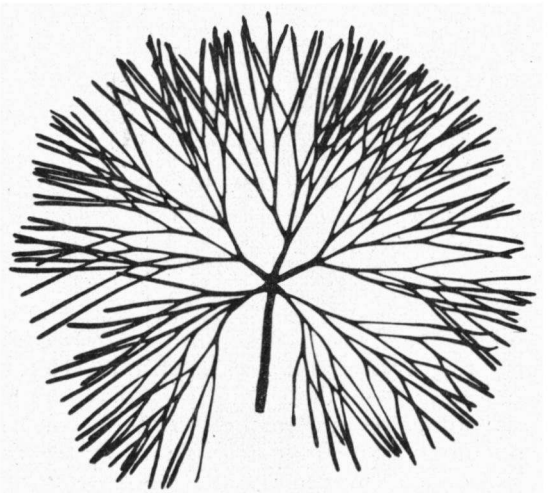

Fig. 2

plant is described by him. Leaves of both plants were sent to Dr. R. C. Rollins, Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, U.S.A., and he informed us that plants of *C. caroliniana* with broad leafsegments occur neither in the herbarium nor in American aquaria. It seems therefore reasonable to regard it as a new variety.

It should be interesting to know how this variety found its way into our aquaria, but unfortunately this problem can not be solved.

Fig. 1 shows a leaf of the new variety at natural size; Fig. 2 a leaf of *C. caroliniana* var. *caroliniana.*