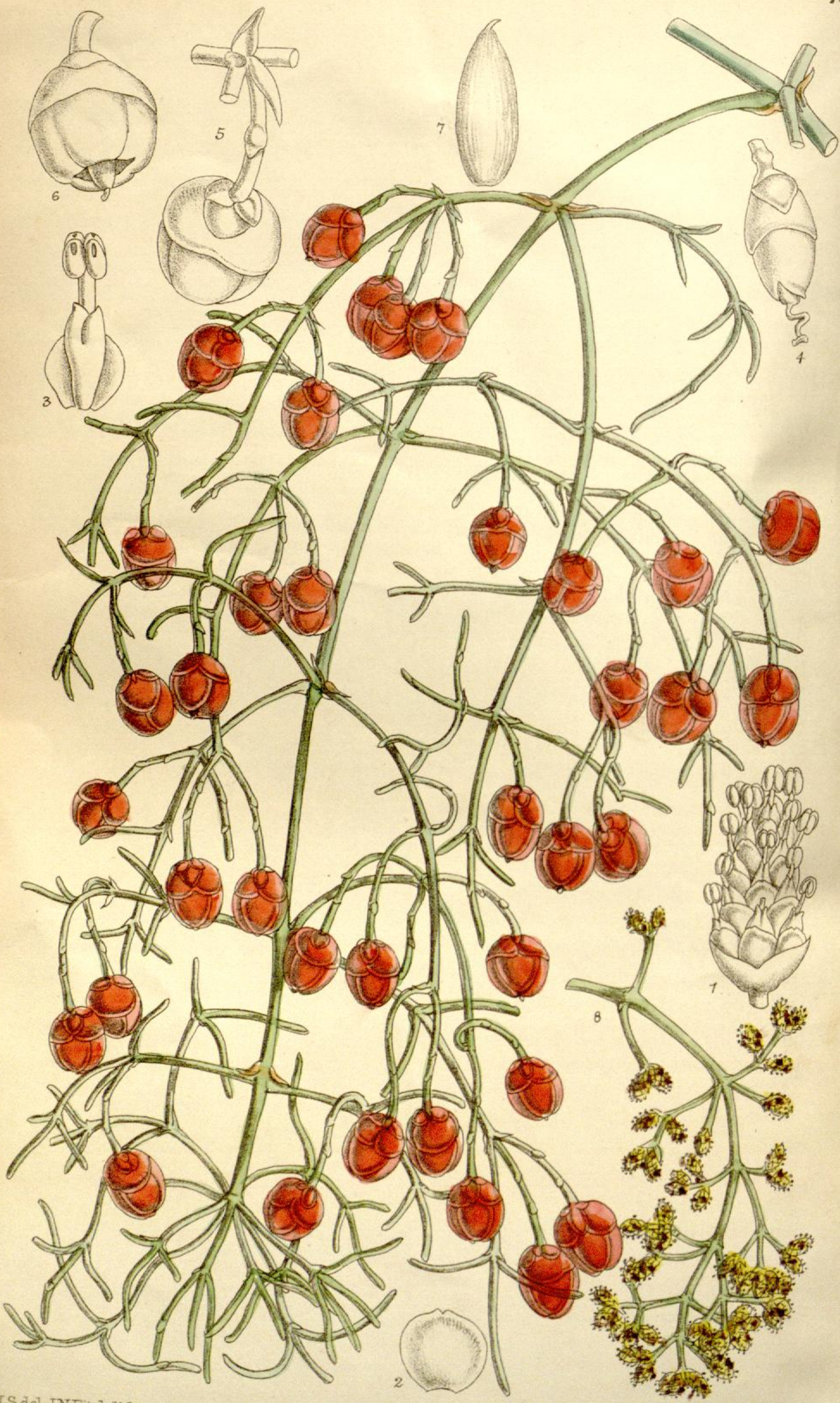




TAB. 7670.

EPHEDRA ALTISSIMA.

Native of N. Africa.

Nat. Ord. GNETACEÆ.

Genus EPHEDRA, Linn.; (*Benth. & Hook. f. Gen. Plant.* vol. iii. p. 418.)

EPHEDRA *altissima*; suffrutex dioica, scandens, ramossissima, caule basi lignoso, ramis dependentibus ramulisque divaricatis oppositis et ternatim verticillatis gracilibus glaucis aliis persistentibus teretibus aliis tenuioribus compressis et tetragonis, foliis 2-natis v. 3-4 natim verticillatis linearibus v. setaceis basi breviter connatis, spicis masculis solitaris binis ternatis fasciculatis v. paniculatis ovoideis v. subglobosis ad $\frac{1}{6}$ poll. diam., bracteis floralibus plurimis late ovatis orbicularibusve membranaceis basi connatis, perianthio obovoideo bilabiato, staminum columna exserta, antheris 1-3 sessilibus, galbulis fœmineis solitariis globosis ad $\frac{1}{4}$ poll. diam., fructiferis majoribus, bracteis 2-3 paribus, infimis minutis supremis multo majoribus ad $\frac{3}{4}$ connatis herbaceis obtusis marginibus membranaceis fimbriatis demum carnosius rubris, integumento anguste ellipsoideo, apice exserto, tubillo elongato recto v. torto, seminibus 1-3 fere $\frac{1}{3}$ poll. longis, solitariis trigonis v. angulatis, binis plano-convexis.

E. altissima, Desf. *Fl. Atlant.* vol. ii. p. 371, t. 253. *Parl. in DC. Prodr.* vol. xvi. pars ii. p. 356. *C. A. Meyer, Ephed.* p. 67. *Endl. Syn. Conif.* p. 261. *Ball, Spicil. Fl. Marocc.* (*Journ. Linn. Soc. Bot.* vol. xvi.) p. 669. *Stapf, Ephed.* p. 46, t. ii. et ix. fig. 1-15. *Gard. Chron.* 1890, vol. i. p. 791, fig. 129.

Upwards of thirty species of *Ephedra* have been described, of which seven are cultivated in the Royal Gardens, but not *E. altissima*, which is not hardy. Of these, the latter is the only one figured from living specimens in any English botanical work; first in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* (l.c.), nine years ago, and now in this magazine; in both cases from a plant cultivated in Commendatore Hanbury's garden at La Mortola, where it is a very attractive shrub when in fruit in December. It is a native of the North African coast, from the city of Marocco to Sus, on the Atlantic side, and extending to Tunis on the Mediterranean

Descr.—A tall, diœcious, glabrous, scandent, excessively branched, green, almost leafless glaucous green shrub; stem woody at the base, very slender, branches and branchlets drooping or pendulous, opposite or ternately whorled, the ultimate opposite, divaricate, compressed, and four-angled, bearing small ovate acuminate brown scales at the axils. *Leaves* minute, linear or setaceous. *Male*

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cones in very lax panicles, solitary, binate, or ternate at the ends of decurved branchlets, sessile, ovoid-oblong, about one-sixth of an inch long, many-fld., yellow, with red-brown anthers; bracts in several series, orbicular; stamens 1-3, exserted from a bilabiate tubular perianth. *Fem. cones* much larger, solitary at the ends of the branchlets, one-half to three-quarters of an inch long; bracts in about three pairs, orbicular, lower pair or pairs very small, uppermost pair much larger, connate for two-thirds of their length, swelling greatly, and forming a red fleshy cup as the seed ripens. *Integument* of the seed thin, tip exserted, terminating in a usually twisted tubulus. *Seeds* one to three, ellipsoid, if solitary angular, if binate plano-convex, if three trigonous.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1, Male cone; 2, bracts of the same; 3, bract and perianth; 4, unripe fem. cone; 5, ripe ditto, with peduncle and portion of stem; 6, single ripe fem. cone; 7, seed: all *enlarged*; 8, panicle of male spikes of the *nat. size*.