

14. *ADANSONIA*, Linn.

Calyx ovoid or oblong, deeply splitting into 3 to 5 lobes. Staminal column divided at the top into numerous filaments. Ovary 5- to 10-celled, with many ovules in each cell. Style shortly divided at the summit into as many radiating stigmas as there are cells. Fruit oblong, woody, indehiscent, the cells filled with a mealy pulp. Seeds reniform-globular, embedded in the pulp; cotyledons very much folded, enclosing the radicle.— Trees with a comparatively short trunk, acquiring an immense girth, the wood soft and spongy. Leaves digitate, with entire leaflets. Peduncles axillary, 1-flowered, bracteate. Flowers large, white, pendulous. Fruits large, pendulous.

Besides the Australian species, which is endemic, the genus only contains one other, the celebrated *Baobab* of tropical Africa, which extends into the western districts of East India.

1. **A. Gregorii**, *F. Muell. in Hook. Kew Journ.* ix. 14. A large tree, not lofty in proportion to its size, with an enormous gouty stem, attaining from 30 to 80 ft. in circumference, and usually contracted under the main branches of the head. Leaflets 5, 7, or rarely 9, oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, the larger ones 4 to 5 in. long, narrowed at the base but rarely petiolulate, minutely pubescent above, white-tomentose underneath. Flowers of a yellowish-white, on pedicels of 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Calyx oblong and entire in the bud, and little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter, attaining 3 in. in length, and splitting into 3 to 5 lobes as the flower opens, tomentose outside, silky-villous inside. Petals 5 or rarely 4, cuneate-oblong, fully 4 in. long, silky-villous outside in their upper portion. Staminal column pubescent outside, rather shorter than the filaments. Fruit resembling a small gourd, in our specimens about 6 in. long and 3 to 4 in. diameter, but probably often larger, of a brownish-red colour, densely tomentose, exuding a dark red gum.

N. Australia. Sandy plains and low stony ridges, from the Glenelg to the western shores of Arnhem's Land, and rarely above 100 miles inland, *F. Mueller, G. Bennett*, and others. The interior substance of the fruit has an agreeable acidity, and, boiled with sugar, is of material service in scorbutic complaints. (See *G. Bennett, 'Gatherings of a Naturalist,'* 292, t. 5.)

The African *A. digitata*, which is closely allied, and, according to *G. Bennett*, has precisely the same fruit (above a foot long in our specimens), differs chiefly in broader leaflets, a broader calyx more regularly 5-cleft, broader petals, and still more numerous and shorter filaments.

15. **BOMBAX**, Linn.

(*Salmalia*, Schott.)

Calyx cup-shaped, truncate, or splitting into 3 to 5 lobes. Staminal column divided into numerous filaments, of which the inner ones, or nearly all, are more or less connected in pairs and united at the base into 5 or more bundles. Ovary 5-celled, with several ovules in each cell; style club-shaped, or shortly 5-lobed at the top. Capsule woody or coriaceous, opening loculicidally in 5 valves, the cells densely woolly inside. Seeds obovoid or globular, enveloped in the wool of the pericarp; albumen thin; cotyledons much folded round the radicle.—Trees. Leaves digitate, with leaflets usually entire. Peduncles 1-flowered, axillary or terminal. Flowers white or red.

The species are chiefly South American, with one from tropical Africa, and another from tropical Asia extending also into Australia.

BOMBACACEAE

Bombax ceiba L. var
leioarpum

BOMBACACEAE
Camptostemon schultzii