

2. SPATHODEA, Beauv.

(Sect. or gen. Dolichandra or Dolichandrone, Fenzl.)

Calyx spathaceous, herbaceous, acuminate, oblique, split on the upper edge. Corolla tubular, the lobes spreading, nearly equal, obscurely 2-lipped or oblique, imbricate in the bud. Stamens 4, in pairs, included in the tube, with a small fifth staminodium; anther-cells parallel. Ovules crowded on the placentas but almost in a single row. Capsule linear, elongated, flattened or nearly terete, opening loculicidally in 2 concave or nearly flat valves, the dissepiment transverse with relation to the valves, but so much laterally dilated between the placentas as to appear flattened and parallel to the valves. Seeds in a single row to each placenta, flat, broadly winged on each side, but scarcely overlapping each other.—Small trees. Leaves scattered or irregularly whorled, entire or pinnate. Flowers in terminal racemes. Bracts minute; bracteoles none.

Like *Tecoma*, the genus is at present in a state of great confusion, and no two botanists are agreed as to its limits. The Australian species are certainly congeners of the Asiatic *S. crispa*, retained in the genus by *Bureau*, but it is as yet very uncertain how many of the American and African species (among the latter of which are the two species of which one must be considered as typical) are to be associated with them.

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| Leaves ovate, simple, mostly scattered | 1. <i>S. alternifolia</i> . |
| Leaves simple or pinnate, mostly whorled, lanceolate or linear as well as their leaflets | 2. <i>S. heterophylla</i> . |
| Leaves pinnate; leaflets long, terete, almost filiform | 3. <i>S. filiformis</i> . |

3. ***S. filiformis***, DC. *Prod.* ix. 209. A small tree, quite glabrous. Leaves scattered or, in some specimens, irregularly opposite, pinnate; leaflets in few distant pairs, very narrowly linear-terete, almost filiform as well as the rachis, 6 to 10 in. long in some specimens, half that length and more crowded in others, occasionally only 3 to the leaf (or rarely the leaves simple?). Flowers entirely like those of *S. heterophylla*, but the racemes shorter and the pedicels usually longer. Capsule above 1 ft. long, terete according to A. Cunningham, appearing somewhat compressed when dry, the structure and seeds as in *S. heterophylla*.—*Dolichandrone filiformis*, Fenzl; F. Muell. *Fragm.* iv. 149.

N. Australia. Copeland Island, A. Cunningham; Victoria river, F. Mueller.

2. **S. heterophylla**, *R. Br. Prod.* 472. A scrubby tree of 10 to 15 ft. with a rugged bark, quite glabrous. Leaves crowded on the young shoots.

and woody, indehiscent or opening longitudinally when very dry.—Wight, *Icon.* t. 8.

N. Australia. Islands of the Gulf of Carpentaria, *R. Brown, Henne.*

Queensland. N.E. coast, *A. Cunningham, M'Gillivray.*

The species is widely spread over the seacoasts of tropical Asia, extending from eastern Africa to the Pacific Islands. It is also introduced into the West Indies.