

ORD. SAXIFRAGACEÆ.*

1. ESCALLONIA, *Mutis.*

1. ESCALLONIA SERRATA, *Smith.*

Escallonia serrata, Smith, Ic. Pl. Ined. t. 31; DC. Prodr. 4, p. 3; Hook. Ic. Pl. t. 540; Hook. f. Fl. Antarc. p. 279.

HAB. Orange Harbour, Fuegia; where it is a very abundant shrub.

* Mr. Brown, in indicating the *Cunoniaceæ* and *Escalloniæ* as separate orders (in Flinders, Voy., and in Frankl. Narr.), remarked, that they were to be distinguished from *Saxifragæ* by their habit, rather than by any important characters of fructification: and the remark still holds true. M. Alphonse DeCandolle (in Monogr. Campanul. p. 91, 1830), after seeking in vain for any floral characters whatever, proposed to consider them as tribes of *Saxifragaceæ*;—a view which was adopted in the Prodr. by his father, and also by Endlicher, the latter merely raising four of the tribes of DeCandolle to the rank of orders, and appending *Bauera* to the *Cunoniæ*, as Brown had suggested. In the Flora of North America (1840), another suborder was added for *Philadelphus*, a genus which, although usually associated with two real Hydrangeaceous genera (*Decumaria* and *Deutzia*), was generally considered to be the type of a distinct order, and placed in the vicinity of *Myrtaceæ*. I am not aware that this view has been followed by any botanist, except Dr. Hooker, who in his Flora Antarctica (1847), under *Cornidia*, distinctly refers *Philadelphus* to the “class *Saxifragæ*.” There is nothing to distinguish *Philadelphus* from the *Hydrangiæ* except the convolute æstivation of the petals, which, although peculiar, is surely not of subordinal consequence. Whatever value might have been assigned to it, as separating *Philadelphus* from the *Saxifragaceæ*, is now reduced to insignificance by the convolute-imbricated æstivation of the petals of *Jamesia*, Torr. & Gray (vide Pl. Fendl. p. 55), their imbricated æstivation in *Fendlera*, Engelm. & Gray (Pl. Wright. 1, p. 77, & 2, p. 64), and the almost free ovary in *Carpenteria*, Torr. Pl. Fremont. p. 12, t. 7, which in other respects scarcely differs from *Philadelphus* itself. It would seem, therefore, that the order *Saxifragaceæ* should embrace five tribes, nearly as adopted by DeCandolle, characterized solely by their organs of vegetation, namely:—the *Escalloniæ*; woody plants, with alternate, simple leaves, destitute of stipules; the *Cunoniæ*, with opposite