

biloculares, longitudinaliter dehiscentes. Squamulæ disci hypogynæ fl. masc. 4 vel 5, subcoalitæ, apice dentatæ; fl. fert. 8 vel 10, staminibus alternæ, sæpe emarginatæ. Ovaria maris nulla; fl. fœm. 4 vel 5, discreta, libera, calycis lobis alterna, ovoideo-fusiformia, in stylos attenuata: stigmata terminalia subcapitata. Ovula gemina collateralia, vel solitaria, pendula, subanatropha. Folliculi 4-5, compressi, cartilaginei vel coriacei, intus longitudinaliter dehiscentes, mono-dispermi. Semina oblonga, compressa; testa membranacea aut superne aut utrinque alato-producta. Embryo subcylindricus, albumine carnosio parum brevior; cotyledonibus oblongis planiusculis radícula cylindrica supera subdimidio brevioribus.—Frutices vel arbusculæ Polynesiæ; foliis oppositis seu verticillatis simplicibus; stipulis interpetiolaribus deciduis; floribus parvis paniculatis; pedicellis articulatis.

This curious genus, founded on two species, one from the Samoan, the other from the Feejee Islands, would appear to have more resemblance to *Aphanopetalum*, Endl., than to any other. It is remarkably distinguished from all known Cunoniaceous genera by its wholly separate pistils, of the same number as the sepals. Although very different in habit and in foliage, it accordingly exhibits the floral characters of *Crassulaceæ*,—an order which was already difficult enough to be distinguished from *Saxifragaceæ*, on account of the syncarpous ovaries of *Diamorpha* and *Penthorum*.* In this respect it also imitates *Rosaceæ* (from which the opposite leaves and albuminous seeds exclude it); the pistils simulating those of a *Spiræa*, as closely as the foliage and inflorescence of the species of the Saxifrageous genus *Astilbe* simulate the *Spiræa Aruncus*. The generic name alludes to this resemblance.

1. SPIRÆANTHEMUM SAMOENSE, Sp. Nov. (Tab. 83.)

S. ramis pubescentibus; foliis oppositis ovalibus subacuminatis basi rotundatis serrulatis insigniter penninerviis; paniculis folia excedentibus; folliculis dispermis; seminibus utrinque appendiculatis.

* It has even similar hypogynous scales, the want of which in *Saxifragaceæ* is suggested by Lindley (Vegetable Kingdom, p. 344) apparently as a reason for not admitting the *Crassulaceæ* into the Saxifragal alliance.