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A few Words of Explanation to European Botanists.

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Over ten years I have been studying the botany of Japan. During these years there have occurred to me not a few doubts about species of plants and many other matters connected with investigations in various departments of botany. In cases of doubtful species, I sent the specimens to specialists in Europe and America, from some few of whom I received satisfactory answers to my inquiries; from others I received but scanty information; while from others again, to some of whom I sent many valuable specimens, I have been so unfortunate as to have received no answer what-

ever even after the lapse of several years. Nothing, it will be admitted, is more trying and disappointing than this to an earnest worker. But I have suffered patiently. When I began to make collections of plants for the Imperial University of Japan, there was not a single reliable specimen in its museums, and, worse than this, no books of reference whatever. I had therefore no alternative in every case to thus looking for kindly help from the more favoured botanists of Europe and America. But now that I have already collected a large number of specimens and books of reference, though not yet quite sufficient for my purpose, I have decided to begin to give new names to those plants which I consider as new, without attempting in many cases to consult with European specialists. My new names may consequently not in some cases be needed; that is, the species to which they are given may not be wholly new, though new to the flora of Japan. And for this reason I think it incumbent upon me to make this explanation, as I

intend to publish descriptions of new Japanese species in this magazine from time to time. Moreover this audacity on my part has become necessary for two reasons. The first is that although I worked single-handed in my earlier botanical investigations in Japan, I have now several able co-adjutors whom I have been fortunate enough to train to their respective work, and consequently my work is now advancing rapidly. My other reason is that I am now preparing three works on Japanese botany, one of which treats of a special group of plants, while the others are of more general character, besides that my fellow-workers are also writing on special groups. What these works are, I hope, will become known in the course of a few years.

Two New Species of Japanese Plants.

Ryokichi Yatabe, Sc. D.

Leptodermis pulchella, sp. nov.

Nom. Jap. Shichōge. ヲテウザ

(Plate XII.)

A small much branched bush with a pale brown bark. Branchlets decussate, slightly quadrangular, furfuraceous. Leaves deciduous, elliptic-lanceolate, narrowed into the petiole, entire, subcoriaceous, smooth except the midrib where there are minute hairs; the largest leaves about 1 inch and 3 lines long and 5 lines broad. Stipules interpetiolar, appressed, scaly, broad at the base, rather abruptly pointed. Flowers bracteate and bracteolate, in terminal fascicles; bracts in pairs, linear-oblongate; bracteoles also in pairs, connate at the base, membranaceous, obovate, pointed, closely surrounding the calyx-tube. Calyx-tube obconic; its lobes 5, oblong, acute, finely ciliate at the margin. Corolla purple, funnel-shaped, with a slender tube, hairy within, very minutely pubescent outside, 7-8 lines long; its lobes 5, broad, brighter colored than the tube, wavy at the margin, valvate with inflexed edges. Stamens 5, inserted in the tube of the corolla; filaments very short; anthers