A New Fern from Rota, Mariana Islands

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About 75 species of ferns are known from the Mariana Islands. Of these the majority are common and wide-ranging. Only a few species are endemic or generally considered rare.

The only previous records of the cosmopolitan and very large genus Lastrea in the Marianas are of the common species with much-dissected fronds: \textit{L. Torresiana} (Gaudichaud) Moore (= \textit{Polystichum Torresianum} Gaudichaud, Freyc. Voy. Bot. 33. 1827) from Guam, and the similar \textit{L. ornata} (Wallich) Copeland (= \textit{Phegopteris ornata} Fee, Hosokawa, Nat. Hist. Soc. of Formosa, Trans. 26: 233. 1936) from Alamagan, Sarigan, and Anatahan. The following is a species of \textit{Lastrea} with bipinnatifid fronds, known from eight complete fronds obtained from two separate plants on the island of Rota, collected by D. F. Grether of the University of Wisconsin.

\textit{Lastrea Gretheri} n. sp.

Fronde pinnata, chartacea, pubescente, utraque facie glandulifera, 37 cm. alta, 10 cm. lata; stipitibus 11 cm. altis, minute pubescentibus, sulcatis, stramineis, sed basi atrocastaneis, et paleis atrocastaneis pubescentibus linearisibus acuminatis vestitis; pinnis ad alam 1 mm. latam pinnatifidis, fere sessilibus, 5.5 cm. longis, 1.0 cm. latis; pinnis basalibus non brevioribus; segmentis 5–6 mm. longis, plerisque oppositis, oblongis, obtusis, integris, marginibus deflexis; venulis 6–8-paribus, libera, simplicibus; soris parvis, 3–5-paribus, ad segmenta submarginalibus, confertis; indusio crasso, castaneo, persistente, glanduloso; sporis nigris.

A fern of the habit of \textit{Cyclosorus dentatus} (Forsk.) Ching. Rhizome not taken but form of stipe bases indicating a creeping rootstock. Scales of stipe-bases linear-acuminat 3–7 mm. long, 0.5–1.0 mm. broad at base, shiny dark-brown, provided with numerous needle-like pale hairs, 0.1 mm. long. Fronds 4–5, oblong-lanceolate, 37 (33–41) cm. tall, including the stipe, 10 (9–12) cm. broad at the middle. Stipes 11 (9–13) cm. long, 1.5 mm. thick in the middle, drying deeply sulcate, atrocastaneous in lower 3–6 cm., shading into pale straw-color, densely beset with pale hairs.

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FIG. 1. \textit{Lastrea Gretberi} W. H. Wagner: \textit{a}, habit of frond; \textit{b}, details of pinnules; \textit{c}, stipe-base scale showing distribution of hairs; \textit{d}, hair from lamina; \textit{e}, forms of glands; \textit{f}, form of indusium with distribution of dark and light glands (these commonly much fewer, or some replaced by hairs).