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TAB. 5724.

MONIZIA EDULIS.

*Cenoula da Rocha, or Rock Carrot.*

Nat. Ord. UMBELLIFERÆ.—PENTANDRIA DISTYLA.

*Gen. Char.* Calycis dentes obsoleti. Petala oblonga, lanceolata, apice angustata, incurva, dorso pilosa. Discus depressus. Staminis incurta. Bractea oblonga, a dorso compressa, carpellis dorso leviter convexis non alatis, jugis omnibus crassis obtusis; primariis, lateralibus juxta commissuram nitis inconspicuis; secundariis, dorsalibus primariis conformibus, lateralibus multo majoribus cum plana commissura continuis, foveolis; vittis sub jugis secundariis solitariis. Carpophorum 2-partitum. Semen complanatum. — Fructus erectus, caudice simplici v. diviso,olato, crassitie brachii humani. Folia ad apicem caudicis v. ramali conferta, teretia, oblonga v. ovato-oblonga, 3-4-pinnatifida; foliolis serratis incisis. Umbellæ simple; involucri et involucri bractea 6-10, lineari-lanceolata. Flores parvi, albi.

MONIZIA *edulis*. Lowe, *Manual of Flora of Madeira*, p. 805, et Hook. *New Journ. Bot.* v. 8, p. 295.

The Madeiran group of islands possesses two of the very few frutescent Umbelliferae hitherto discovered; both are plants of excessive rarity and singularity, and both have flowered and fruited in the Royal Gardens within six months of one another; of these, one is the subject of the present Plate, the other is *Thapsia decipiens* (Tab. nostr. 5670).

*Monizia* was discovered by my friend the Rev. R. Lowe, M.A., on sea-cliffs on the east side of the Great Desert Island, about one thousand feet above the sea, in clefts, hollows, and ledges; there he describes it as having a stem a foot or more high, but in the Royal Gardens the largest specimen attained a height of nearly seven feet before flowering, and the smallest (two have flowered) about two feet; these flowered within a few weeks of one another in April and May. The root, which is like a branched carrot, and black externally, contains a pure white farinaceous substance, like that of the common Pig-nut (*Bunium flaccidum*), which it resembles in taste, and when boiled is compared to a bad, stringy parsnip.

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In times of scarcity the root is eaten, boiled and raw, by the goat-herds, orchil-gatherers, and fishermen of the Desertas.

The genus *Monizia* was named in honour of Senhor J. M. Moniz, a zealous Madeiran botanist, and cultivator of the native plants of the islands. It is so closely allied to *Thapsia*, that in the absence of fruit it was referred to that genus in the 'Genera Plantarum' of Mr. Bentham and myself; but after a careful examination of fresh specimens, I am disposed to retain the genus, which differs from *Thapsia* in its singular habit, well-developed involueral bracts, and the thick ribs of the fruit, the lateral secondary of which are very much incrassated and corky when ripe, with no disposition whatever to produce wings. *Melanoselinum*, again, a genus founded upon the other Madeiran caulescent Umbellifer (*Thapsia decipiens*), may be distinguished from both *Monizia* and *Thapsia* by the large-cut involueral bracts, the notched petals with inflexed laciniulae, the toothed edges of the wings of the carpels, and the Palm-like stem; it is, however, much nearer to the two Mediterranean *Thapsias* than *Monizia* is.—*J. D. H.*

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Fig. 1. Bedded view of whole plant. 2. Portion of caudex. 3. Branch of umbel. 4. Portion of leaf. 5. Flower. 6. Fruit. 7. Transverse section of mericarp:—all but 5 and 7 of the natural size.