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CHARACTERS

OF A

NEW GENUS OF PLANTS

NAMED

SALISBURIA.

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By JAMES EDWARD SMITH, M.D. F.R.S. P.L.S.

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FROM THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY.

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XXVII. *Characters of a new Genus of Plants named SALISBURIA.*  
By James Edward Smith, M.D. F.R.S. P.L.S.

Read December 6, 1796.

SALISBURIA.

MONOECIA *Polyandria.*

CHAR. GEN.

**M**ASC. *Amentum* nudum, filiforme. *Antheræ* incumbentes, deltoideæ; loculis apice tantum connexis.  
*Fœm.* folitarii. *Calyx* 4-fidus, persistens. *Drupa* supera, globosa, putamine triangulo. *Semen* albuminosum, bicotyledoneum.

*SALISBURIA adiantifolia.*

Ginkgo, vel Ginan, vulgo Idfio, arbor nucifera, folio adiantino.

*Kæmpf. Am. Exot.* 811, cum icone.

Ginkgo biloba. *Linn. Mant.* 313.

Ginko biloba, foliis Adianti. *Thunb. Fl. Jap.* 358.

**DESCR. FRUCT.** *Pericarpium*, *Drupa* pallidè fusca, supera, globosa; *caro* dura, crassa, putamini arctissimè cohærens; *putamen* tenue, osseum, ovale, triangulum, glabrum, apice acutum, uniloculare. *Semen* folitarium, ovale, basi angustatum, magnitudine ferè putaminis; *integumenta* duo, fusca, membranacea;

branacea; alterum putamini adhærens, alterum femini; albumen virefcente-album, femini conforme, amygdalinum; embryo luteus, basi albuminis infertus, rectus, bicotyledoneus.

This is a large not inelegant tree, cultivated in China and Japan. The nuts are eatable, and sweet, but not produced till the tree arrives at a considerable age; nor has it been long enough in England to attain a sufficient degree of maturity. The male flowers however have been observed for these two years past, early in the spring, in Kew gardens. The tree itself has long been admired for its handsome fan-shaped leaves, cloven about half way from their summit; but they can by no means be termed *biloba*, or two-lobed, as that denomination requires the segments should be rounded. These leaves are also irregularly notched like those of the *Zamia*, thickened at the margin, smooth, striated on each side with numerous parallel nerves.

The genus is named in honour of *Richard Anthony Salisbury, Esq. F.R.S. and F.L.S.* of whose acuteness and indefatigable zeal in the service of botany no testimony is necessary in this society, nor in any place which his writings have reached.

*Salisburia* should be placed in the Linnæan system between *Quercus* and *Juglans*. In that of M. de Jussieu it belongs to the fifth order of his 15th class, after *Taxus*, though it is not very nearly allied to any genus whatever. I have preferred *adiantifolia* for a specific name, because *biloba* is not correct, and *adiantifolia* has not only been used long ago by Kæmpfer and Thunberg, but is peculiarly apposite in this case; my friend whose name I wish the plant in question to perpetuate, having distinguished himself by the application of such comparative specific names, and preferring them to all others.



The generic name of *Ginkgo*, being equally uncouth and barbarous, was retained by Linnæus in an Appendix, only till the flowers should be discovered, and the plant referred to its proper place in the System.

