

SHINING-LEAVED POISON-WOOD.

EXCÆCARIA LUCIDA. *Floribus femineis subsolitariis pedicellatis; masculis tripartitis spicatis; foliis cuneato-ellipticis, lanceolatisve subserratis.*

EXCÆCARIA LUCIDA. *Monoica, floribus pedicellatis, staminibus trichotomis, femineis pedunculatis, foliis ellipticis subserratis.*—SWARTZ, Prod., p. 1122.

Ricini fructu glabro, arbor julifera, lactescens, folio myrtino.—SLOANE, Catal. Hist., vol. ii. p. 131, tab. 158, fig. 2.

ACCORDING to Dr. Blodgett, this plant, in Key West, becomes a tree of thirty to forty feet in height. It is also indigenous to Jamaica and Cuba, and a broad-leaved variety was collected by Poiteau in St. Domingo. The wood is yellowish white, hard, and close-grained; but of its uses, or the economy of the plant, we are as yet ignorant.

The branches are covered with a gray and somewhat rough bark. The leaves are alternate, shortly petiolate, smooth and shining on the upper surface, and on both sides rather prominently and elegantly veined and reticulated; they are slightly and distantly serrulated, often lanceolate, and somewhat obtuse. On other branches the leaves are almost oblong-elliptic, and narrowed or wedge-formed at the base. In the rainy season, toward the extremities of the twigs come out close, brown, cylindric, axillary aments, which at length shoot into loose spikes or aments covered with numerous male flowers, growing by threes together on a common pedicel, which divides above into the three flowers, each subtended (apparently?) by a still smaller scale, and consisting of a secondary, short stipe, divided into three stamens. The anthers are round, small, and two-celled. At the base of the catkin, or below in a separate axil, issue the pedicellated female flowers, subtended at the base by appropriate scales, and with the rudiments of a calyx beneath