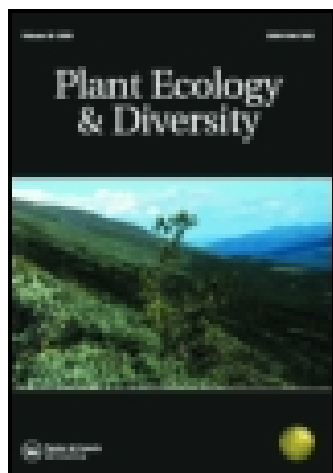


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III. Botanical Notes

John Lowe M.D.

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l bark, but in no case killed by being split or torn to pieces like other trees, such as oak, elm, ash, silver fir, &c.

Of recent years forest and ornamental trees damaged by lightning have been numerous. Many trees, although not torn to pieces, are often injured to such an extent as ultimately to cause death. During spring large branches are found to be dead, and often the whole tree, evidently the effects of lightning during the previous summer or autumn, not observed at the time.

Wall-fruit trees are also subject to the effects of lightning; the injury is almost immediately observed by the sudden browning of the leaves. In the case of stone fruits, besides being browned, bursting of the bark often takes place, causing gum to ooze from the injured portions.

III. *Botanical Notes*. By JOHN LOWE, M.D., Lynn.

1. *Note on mounting Hepaticæ.*

A plan which I adopted many years ago has been found to answer so well for preserving the delicate *Hepaticæ* that it may be worth while to record the method of procedure for the benefit of those who may be commencing this most interesting study. It affords not only a means of preserving the specimens more perfectly than any other, but it also enables the student to refer to them for comparison, which he cannot do satisfactorily when they are mounted in the ordinary way without detaching them from the paper and soaking them in water.

The first requirement is some tolerably strong paper (in order to avoid curling) of smooth surface, and colour to match the herbarium sheets; this is to be spread evenly with gum and allowed to dry, when it is cut into small square-shaped pieces ready for use. It is better to have a set prepared with very thin gum for the more delicate forms. The specimen having been thoroughly freed from dirt—if necessary by washing—is pressed gently between blotting paper, in order to remove superfluous moisture. It is then placed on the paper, and firmly pressed for a few seconds with the point of the finger covered by a cambric handkerchief. The plant will then be found to have adhered to the gummed surface. After carefully removing all trace of

moisture, the paper is next to be placed in clean blottin paper, and pressure applied until it is dry.

It is well, in order to avoid confusion, to write the name of the specimen on the back of the paper before mounting it.

2. *Clathrocystis ceruginosa* (Henfrey).

Henfrey observes (Trans. Mic. Soc. vol. iv.), "This remarkable form does not appear hitherto to have been found in Britain. We found it in the autumn of 185 forming a scum extending over a large portion of the lake in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew."

In June 1870 I noticed that the entire lake at Sandringham was coloured a bright grass-green by some minute alga, and on examining the water microscopically found that it was full of this beautiful plant. It occurred to me that aquatic plants might possibly have been brought from Kew, and the alga thus introduced, but a careful inquiry has satisfied me that this is not the case. The lake is recent construction, and there have been no aquatic plants brought from a distance.

Currey figures a very imperfect form, which, he says, differs from Henfrey's figure in the much greater number of reticulations (Mic. Journal, vol. vi.) This is evidently due to the greater age, as the reticulations increase in number and size as the plant becomes older. The cellules, which become brown in autumn, and free, Henfrey describes, have a diameter of $\frac{1}{2000}$ th of an inch. In September the frustules are surrounded by extremely fine filaments of *Spirillum*, which, during the earlier part of the year is not seen in the lake.

The peculiar verdigris green which the *Clathrocystis* presents on drying, is very marked and characteristic.

3. *Asplenium Adiantum-nigrum* var. *A. acutum* (Bory).

Specimens of this plant were brought to me by Mr B. Bray, who discovered them on a common near Lynnhaven. They evidently correspond with *Adiantum acutum* in all particulars, though the pinnules are not quite so alternate as in a specimen from Teneriffe, which was kindly

forwarded to me by Mr P. N. Fraser. In this neighbourhood the habitat is so wild, and the amount of the plant so considerable, as to preclude the idea of its having been introduced.

IV. *On the Open-Air Vegetation at the Royal Botanic Garden.* By JAMES M'NAB, Curator.

Since last meeting (June 11) we experienced during the early part of the month much cold, dry easterly wind, with hot sun, which has kept back the foliage of late-leaving trees, such as sugar maple, locust tree, deciduous cypress, tulip tree, catalpa, liquidambar, deciduous magnolias, &c. Owing to the long drought the leaves of several species look as if they would not be properly developed this season; they are now (July 9) far behind. We had heavy showers of rain on June 25 and 29, and slight showers on several days since, but the moisture not having penetrated the soil under the trees, a full development of foliage cannot be expected.

The long dry weather has ripened the leaves of some early-foliaged trees, such as the lime and sycamore, which, in several town squares and gardens, already display an autumnal tint. Excluding the common horse chestnut, elm, lime, and sycamore, few of the ordinary forest trees, as the beech, ash, oak, and birch (except in situations naturally damp), show the usual rich luxuriance of foliage of the beginning of July; and from present appearance, particularly in dry situations, do not seem as if they would attain their accustomed size this year.

The double-flowered English cherry (*Prunus avium*) bloomed a second time about June 20, probably from buds of the first flowering partially injured by the east wind in spring.

Scarlet-flowered horse chestnuts have been very late, and none of the flower-heads equal those of former years.

A large old service tree in the Botanic Garden has assumed a remarkable appearance this year. The stem is 4 feet 6 inches in circumference, and 8 feet high before branching. It is on a raised bank, and a grass lawn rises close to the stem on one side, while the ground on the opposite side is covered with shrubs of yew and lilac. The