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VII. Remarks on M. Montagne's Specimen of *Cryphæa Lamyana*

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(*Cryphæa*) *Lamyana*, but that owing to the want of an original specimen there was some difficulty in determining the identity of the two names, and of ascertaining the connections of the species.

M. Montagne therefore states, that with the view of shewing his sense of the honour which the Society conferred upon him by electing him a foreign honorary member, he has sent, in a letter, an authentic specimen of the Limoges Moss, in order that it may be submitted to Dr Lawson for his opinion, and for comparison with British specimens.

M. Montagne then refers to his paper in the "*Annales des Sciences*," where the moss has been described, and gives the characters of the species.

It appears that Bruch and Schimper consider the plant as only an aquatic variety of *Daltonia heteromalla*.

VII. *Remarks on M. Montagne's Specimen of Cryphæa Lamyana.* By GEORGE LAWSON, Ph.D.

Dr Lawson stated that he had carefully examined the specimen above referred to, which M. Montagne had so kindly sent, and that he had compared it with the series of examples of *C. heteromalla* in the University Herbarium. There seems to be no doubt whatever that the specimen collected by the Rev. C. A. Johns, in the River Taw, belongs to the form named *C. Lamyana* by M. Montagne. Whether that is a good species is another question. Dr Lawson's examination has led him to the conclusion that it is not. M. Montagne refers specially to these characters as the most obvious ones of his species: "*Foliis obtusiusculis (non acutis), perichætalibus dentatis (haud integris), operculo conico-incurvo (non acuminato recto).*" Now the Limoges specimen exhibits leaves which are acute, the perichætal leaves are mostly entire, and the operculum, while short, conical, and incurved in some examples, is much elongated, acuminate, and quite straight and erect in others. The fact seems to be, that *Cryphæa heteromalla* is subject to considerable variation with respect to these characters, and that *C. Lamyana* cannot be satisfactorily separated as a species. It must be kept in view, however, that the form is a very distinct one as regards habit and habitat. Instead of

growing on the trunks of trees like the usual state of *C. heteromalla*, it is submerged and attached to stones, and exhibits all the appearance of a true aquatic moss. It is very robust, and is of a less vivid hue than the normal form. Bruch, Schimper, and GümbeL in the "*Bryologia Europæa*," Müller in his "*General Synopsis*," Wilson in the "*Bryologia Britannica*," Stark in the popular "*History of British Mosses*," and other recent writers, have ranked the plant as a variety, under the name *aquatilis*; but Schimper, in his most recent work, the "*Corollarium Bryologiæ Europæ*," omits all mention of it; and, moreover, in his revised character of the genus *Cryphæa* (p. 98), uses the expression "*habitatio arborea*," which is quite at variance with M. Montagne's plant. The form is so distinct as a variety that it ought not to be overlooked, nor should the name given to it by M. Montagne be discarded. Dr Lawson therefore proposed that it should in future be recognised by botanists as *Cryphæa heteromalla*, β . *Lamyana*. Much praise is due to M. Montagne for the frank manner in which he has facilitated an examination of the claims of his plant to specific distinction, and it is to be hoped that the authors of doubtful species will more generally follow his example.

Dr Lawson placed in the collections at the Royal Botanic Garden a series of microscopical preparations, showing the characters above alluded to in M. Montagne's plant, along with the specimen which that gentleman had presented to the Herbarium.

8th July 1858.—Dr SELLER, President, in the Chair.

The following Candidate was balloted for, and duly elected an Ordinary Fellow:—

THOMAS J. CALL, Esq., Surgeon, Alnwick.

The Curator announced the following donations to the Library:—

Transactions of the Natural History Society of Cherbourg—From the Society.

On the Scope and Tendency of Botanical Study. By Cuthbert Collingwood, M.A.—From the Author.