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II. Remarks on *Grimmia pruinosa* (Wilson's MSS.)

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in January and February, while the male plants, grown in the same circumstances, never came into flower till the middle of March. Yet he had every year obtained a crop of young plants from the seed, although the female flowers were quite shrivelled before the male ones expanded. He found that the common spotted variety, long grown in this country, does not flower till May or June, although grown in the pit or house with the others, and begins to expand its flowers when the males are getting past; yet it also never fails to produce a crop of fruit with perfect seeds. He thought that the pollen must lodge for some time in the scales of the unopened flower-buds, or must reach the pistils before the flowers are expanded; but how to account for the fertilising of the early flowering varieties he was at a loss. This year he has forced on the flowering of the male plants by placing them in strong heat, and has all the varieties of the male and female plants in full flower at very nearly the same time, and accordingly he anticipates a much larger produce of fruit than in former years, when they were left to the ordinary course. He exhibited a branch bearing fruit with perfect seed; yet when that plant came into flower, there had not been a male plant in the house where it grew for fully a month previously.

Mr Sadler stated that he had been informed by the Messrs Lawson that when there was a great lapse of time between the flowering of male and female *Aucuba* plants, they frequently collected the pollen and kept it wrapped in paper until such time as the female flowers were ready for fertilisation, when it was applied to the stigmas, and thus secured invariably a crop of fruit with perfect seeds. By grafting the male plant on the female, the two kinds of flowers might expand nearly at the same time.

II. *Remarks on Grimmia pruinosa (Wilson's MSS.)*

By Mr WILLIAM BELL.

The specimens of the moss now exhibited, collected in April 1869 on Arthur Seat, have been carefully examined both by Mr Sadler and myself; and I have come to the conclusion that it is very different from any *Grimmia*

described and figured in the "Bryologia Britannica." Sometime since, on turning over the species of *Grimmia* in Dr Greville's collection—now in the University Herbarium—specimens were observed which careful inspection showed to be identical with the moss above mentioned. Dr Greville's specimen is now exhibited, and those acquainted with Mr Wilson's handwriting will at once perceive that the critical note and description attached are his. He calls it *Schistidium confertum* var. *incanum*. It will be observed that the locality in which it was collected is the King's Park, and the date of collecting 1847. Thinking it strange that Mr Wilson should have omitted all mention in the *Bryologia* of such a well-marked variety, I wrote to him on the subject, and in his reply he informed me that Dr Greville sent him specimens of a moss in 1856, the same as the one he had just received from me, and that it is *Grimmia pruinosa* (Wilson's MSS.), named from specimens sent by Mr Howie from Largo Law, 1864. The fact of Mr Wilson not having seen Dr Greville's specimen till 1856, sufficiently explains why no mention is made of it in the *Bryologia*. It is now fourteen years since the specimens were first seen by Mr Wilson; but twenty-three years since *Grimmia pruinosa* (Wilson's MSS.) was discovered by Dr Greville.

Mr Wilson seems as yet undecided whether the moss just spoken of, or the one known to the generality of British Muscologists as *Schistidium* (*Grimmia*) *confertum*, be the typical *G. conferta*—a question which no one is more competent to decide than himself.

If the genus *Schistidium* is to be retained, both *Grimmia anodon* and *G. pruinosa* will naturally fall into it, rather than into *Grimmia* as it now stands. If the genus *Schistidium* be abolished (which perhaps would be of advantage), then under the heading of *capsules sessile, peristome perfect*, first in order might come *Grimmia maritima*—next, *G. apocarpa*—next, *G. pruinosa*—and next, *G. conferta*, which seems to have a less perfectly developed peristome than any of the preceding. Then, under *peristome entirely wanting*, *G. anodon*, which, although its capsules are sessile, has more characters in common with *Grimmia* proper than with any of the foregoing.