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Astragalus Alpinus Albus

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quite hardy, with free branching dwarf habits of growth, and almost perpetual flowering. Many of them are also very fragrant.

ASTRAGALUS ALPINUS ALBUS. By ROBERT LINDSAY.

(Read 14th July 1898.)

Astragalus alpinus is one of the rarest and most beautiful of our Scottish Alpine plants. Previous to 1884, there were only two stations known in Scotland where it was to be found—one at Little Craigendal, in Aberdeenshire, the other at the head of Glen Doll, Clova, in Forfarshire. A third station was discovered by Mr. Patrick Neill Fraser in September 1884, on Ben Vrackie, a mountain near Pitlochry, in Perthshire, and it was at this station where the white variety that I now exhibit was found. It is very remarkable how *Astragalus alpinus* was so long overlooked on so popular a mountain as Ben Vrackie, as from its abundance at this station the plant must have been growing there for a very long period. The rocks, for a considerable distance, are quite covered with *Astragalus*, and among the débris at the foot of the rocks, the herbage consists almost entirely of *Astragalus alpinus*, which in places forms a carpet as smooth as a bowling-green, probably by the plant being cropped and eaten by sheep.

It was here, at the foot of the rocks, that I dug up a few plants to grow, at the end of June 1896. I searched the rocks higher up, and obtained a few flowering specimens, but they were all typical *alpinus*, and I had no idea that the plants I dug up were anything different from the ordinary type till they came into flower a few weeks ago, and I was not a little surprised to find two or three separate patches of a white variety intermixed with the ordinary pale blue form. The plants are now forming an abundance of seed.

There is in cultivation, and has been for a long time, a white variety of *Astragalus hypoglottis*, but how it originated I know not. There is no record, so far as I know, of a white variety of *Astragalus alpinus* having been known to exist previously, and I therefore submit it to the Society.