This article was downloaded by: [University of Arizona]

On: 03 February 2015, At: 03:06

Publisher: Taylor & Francis

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number:
1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street,
London W1T 3JH, UK

Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tped18>

IV. Notes on Open-Air Vegetation at the Royal Botanic Garden (No. V. 1873.)

Mr M'Nab

Published online: 01 Dec 2010.

To cite this article: Mr M'Nab (1873) IV. Notes on Open-Air Vegetation at the Royal Botanic Garden (No. V. 1873.), Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, 11:1-4, 544-546, DOI: [10.1080/03746607309468052](https://doi.org/10.1080/03746607309468052)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03746607309468052>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

generally become black with dust and insects, collected by the viscid secretion given out by the leaf glands.

The genus *Drosera* contains many beautiful and unintro-duced species, many of them very remarkable in habit, particularly the climbing forms. They are chiefly natives of New South Wales and the Cape of Good Hope. Some of the species have very large flowers, such as the *Drosera capensis* and *D. cistiflora*. If these or other allied species can be introduced into our gardens, it is likely that they may be propagated by cuttings from the root like the *D. dichotoma*. The first species introduced from Sydney to Kew was named *Drosera binata*, having each leaf once forked. Judging from the figure of this plant in the "Botanical Magazine," it must have been drawn from a weakly specimen, as the flowers are small compared with those which the *D. dichotoma* produces. In cultivation this plant seems to vary much; the original binate form has, no doubt, become dichotomous, and can also be reversed. In proof of this, several of the plants now in the garden have their leaves binate, although produced from the dichotomous form by sub-division and root formation, while some plants have their leaves divided into two, three, four, and five parts on the same individual. These circumstances satisfy me that there is no permanent distinction of these supposed species, and as the dichotomous form is the most prevalent, it ought to retain the name.

Since writing the above, I find Planchon, in his excellent paper on the *Droseraceæ*, published in the "Annales des Sciences Naturelles," vol. v., makes the *D. binata*, *D. dichotoma*, *D. pedata*, *D. intermedia*, and *D. Cunninghamii*, all synonymous. He also states that the leaves often vary on the same specimen, a fact confirmed by the specimens in the Botanic Garden.

IV. *Notes on Open-Air Vegetation at the Royal Botanic Garden.* (No. V. 1873.) By Mr M'NAB.

I cannot allow this session to close without giving a few brief remarks on the present state of the open-air vegetation. From the commencement of this year I have, at stated

periods, had occasion to notice its progress, and remark upon its uniform lateness, as compared with last year. Even at the present time these remarks hold good, more particularly with regard to herbaceous plants, many species being still a fortnight behind their usual period of flowering—accounted for, in the first instance, by the late and backward spring, and afterwards by the drought experienced during the months of May and June. Flowering trees and shrubs, although behind their usual time, blossomed abundantly, but continued for a very short period in a state of perfection, owing to the long tract of dry weather and the easterly winds which prevailed. Seed and fruit bearing trees and shrubs seem to promise well for an abundant crop. This result I was scarcely prepared to expect, because of the long-continued moisture of last summer and autumn, and the almost total want of sunlight. These adverse circumstances, however, do not seem to have in the least degree interfered with the proper ripening of the wood, or perfecting of the flower and foliage of the early blooming trees.

During no season do I recollect observing to such an extent the luxuriance of the foliage of ornamental and forest trees as is to be seen this year. Sycamores, horse chestnuts, elms, ashes, oaks, and limes are remarkable for their density, indeed I may include almost every species of forest trees. This unusual luxuriance of growth has, no doubt, been induced by the moisture of last year still remaining about their roots. Many shallow-rooted shrubs and herbaceous plants have been suffering from the recent drought, which has not told on any of the deep-rooted trees and shrubs.

Conifers of every description have got over the browning noticed at the May meeting (page 519, and are now richly clothed with new wood. The resinous smell given out by them at this season of the year (particularly in the evening) is very perceptible. Many individuals consider it beneficial to health to be in the neighbourhood of pine forests during the growing season; and the modern system of freely planting conifers around villas is often adopted because of their supposed health-giving properties.

The general aspect of the arboreous vegetation this year

is so extremely rich, that all landscape pictures painted during this season ought to show a marked contrast to many of those done during previous years, where the trees are often represented as if sectional, light being freely seen through their foliage; but this year they ought to represent a rich and rounded mass of clustering branches of the richest luxuriance. This ought to give a stamp to landscape pictures painted during 1873.

V. *Miscellaneous Communications.*

Mr Peach exhibited a large series of specimens of *Leonodon Taraxacum*, with two heads of flowers on one peduncle, which he had found in June last in great abundance near Melrose. He found several plants with three and two peduncles, each with two capitula; some of the heads were close together on the tips of the peduncles, and often in different stages of growth on the same peduncle.

Mr Peach also exhibited specimens of *Gomphonema geminatum* from the stones in the Tweed, near Melrose. He wished to call attention to the locality. Those desirous of procuring specimens of Diatomaceæ would not only find large masses of this plant attached to the stones, but a great many other genera and species, free and so abundant, that at times they discolour the water, and give it a muddy appearance. This is often taken for the refuse matter sent from the manufactories at Galashiels, and is said to injure the fishery. If examined with the microscope, it will be seen that the "shoddy"-like masses and mud are formed by the frustules of *Gomphonema* and other Diatomaceæ.

Mrs Mackay presented to the Museum models of apple, orange, pear, plum, and tomato, made from paraffine, and tinted by dyes obtained from coal.

Mr Henry H. Calvert, Alexandria, presented to the Museum at the Botanic Garden specimens of "Mummy Bread" from Thebes, found in jars in tombs; fruit of the Doum palm, also found in tombs; inflorescence of *Æruea lanata*, called "toorf," much used in Arabia and Nubia for stuffing pillows, cushions, sofas, and saddles; also specimens of rose of Jericho (*Anastatica*) from Syria.