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IX.—On *Hypericum anglicum*

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myself understand how it has been formed, and cannot find any one who can tell me, I have thought a notice of it might interest some of your readers who may be better able to explain the matter.

Fig. 1 represents the outside, and fig. 2 the inside of the shell.

It is obviously a single valve of some bivalve shell, not unlike that of an Oyster, formed upon and partly made up by one valve of a *Pholas candida*.

There is a faint muscular impression about the middle of the concave part (*a*, fig. 1), and the hinge appears to be represented by a triangular depression, immediately within the beak (*b*, fig. 2).

The whole shell is of a light brownish colour, and the inner surface is perfectly smooth and continuous throughout. The outer surface of the *Pholas* valve is covered by a thin transparent coating—like varnish—of shelly matter, through which the worn (?) surface of the original valve is plainly seen.

I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,

GEORGE BUSK.

IX.—On *Hypericum anglicum*. By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.R.S. &c.*

SINCE the publication of my remarks upon the supposed *Hypericum anglicum*, found near Cork by Dr. Balfour (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. Ser. 2. xi. 360; Edin. Bot. Soc. Trans. iv. 169), I have received additional information concerning it, and have also been favoured with a specimen of an *Hypericum* gathered upon the cliffs above Falmouth harbour in Cornwall, which agrees very exactly with Bertoloni's description of his *H. anglicum*. It appears therefore proper to publish the results of the further study which I have been led to give to the subject, more especially as my opinion has undergone a change.

In my former paper it was stated to be doubtful if the plant there called *H. anglicum* ought to be separated specifically from *H. hircinum*, and I am now strongly disposed to believe that they are indeed one species. At the time of that publication I had been led to suppose, that the plant found near Cork was wild there; but am now informed by Mr. Isaac Carroll of that city, that the station noticed by Dr. Balfour closely adjoins, and, indeed, one side of it forms the "boundary of Lota Wood, whence many half-naturalized species have been recorded by Dennis Murray, such as *Geranium phæum*, *Atropa Belladonna*, &c., plants by no means native there; and from this place," Mr. Carroll thinks that the *Hypericum* in question has migrated. It is

* Read before the Edinburgh Botanical Society, Dec. 14th, 1854.

not contained in Dr. Power's very carefully prepared Flora of Cork (1845), and therefore was not known to him as a native, or even a naturalized plant. He was particularly careful to include all plants of both these kinds. It is now perfectly naturalized, but only, as Mr. Carroll informs me, in suspicious places. In addition to the station near Lota Wood, a single "plant of it grows on an old wall at Monkstown, but although there is no modern garden from which it might have escaped, yet the wall is close to an old castle and burying-ground, localities always famous for doubtful species." Mr. Carroll thinks that *Hyper. calycinum*, *Vinca major*, *V. minor*, *Hesperis matronalis*, *Iris Pseud-acorus*, and *Sambucus Ebulus* are similarly escapes from cultivation in the neighbourhood of Cork. This information seems to settle in the negative the claims of this plant to be considered as a native of Britain*.

The probability of its distinctness from *H. hircinum* was chiefly founded upon a supposed difference of habit, which I now do not believe to be very great; also upon the shape of the leaves, upon which I am now inclined to place very little weight. The *H. anglicum* (Bab.), but not of Bertoloni, is therefore probably nothing more than *H. hircinum* escaped from cultivation, or perhaps intentionally planted at Lota Wood and elsewhere in the south of Ireland.

Having disposed of *H. anglicum* (Bab.), I have next to consider if there is any British plant according with the *H. anglicum* (Bert.), to which latter plant both of the synonyms quoted in my former paper belong. In the year 1853 I received from Mr. T. R. Polwhele, a student of St. John's College, Cambridge, a fine specimen of an *Hypericum* gathered by him on the "cliff above Falmouth Harbour, Cornwall." This specimen has the branching habit, winged peduncles, large flowers, and long styles of *H. hircinum*, combined with the leaves and sepals of *H. androsæmum*. These are the very points to which Bertoloni directs attention as the distinctive characters of his *H. anglicum*, and as the plant under consideration accords well with the figure erroneously named *H. androsæmum* in 'English Botany,' to which Bertoloni refers as representing his *H. anglicum*, I think that we may reasonably conclude that the Cornish specimen is really *H. anglicum* (Bert.). That some plant agreeing with the figure in 'English Botany' inhabits Britain may be concluded with certainty, when we call to mind the great accuracy of the figures which proceeded from the pencil of the late Mr. James Sowerby. As Bertoloni has

* Prof. Balfour states that it was found by Dr. Sibbald on the high road between Aghada and Cloyne, to the south-west of Aghada, and that that gentleman did not remember anything to make him suspect that it had been introduced.

made some slight mistakes in the synonymy of his plant, it is proper to consider each of his references separately. I proceed then to take them in order. *H. androsæmum*, Sm. Eng. Flora (iii. p. 323), probably includes both the plant so named and also *H. anglicum*, but the points which would decide the question are not noticed in the description there given. It has been already remarked that Eng. Bot. (t. 1225) represents *H. anglicum*. Curtis, Fl. Lond. (ii. t. 103, as it is quoted in the 'Fl. Italica,' but i. t. 164, as is apparently the more correct reference to that variously arranged work), is a beautiful figure of *H. androsæmum*, and is therefore erroneously placed under his *H. anglicum* by Bertoloni. Hooker's Brit. Flora (ed. 2. p. 332) may include both of the plants. Babington's Manual (ed. 1. p. 57) was intended to include the true *H. androsæmum* alone; for I was then totally unacquainted with the supposed *H. anglicum*, and was in error when quoting Eng. Bot. 1225 as a representation of my plant. The same error I continued to commit in the 2nd and 3rd editions of the 'Manual.' Reichenbach's figure named *H. grandifolium* is far too imperfect for satisfactory determination, but probably does not represent either of the plants under consideration, and what he may have received from the "Isle of Arran, Buteshire," it is impossible to tell.

It now only remains for me to place in a technical form the characters of *H. anglicum* according to my present views of it.

H. anglicum (Bert.); stem shrubby 2-edged much branched, *peduncles* 2-winged, leaves subcordate-ovate rather acute, cymes few-flowered, sepals broad unequal, petals twice as long as the sepals, *styles exceeding the stamens*, capsules "oval."

H. anglicum, Bert. *Fl. Ital.* viii. 310.

H. androsæmum, Eng. Bot. t. 1225.

The plant is tall, almost shrubby, producing a rather long simple branch from nearly all of the upper axils of the leaves, most of them ending in cymes of from 1 to 5 flowers. The flowers are large, and much resemble both in size and appearance those of *H. hircinum*. The peduncles are furnished with two well-marked wings, extending from their true base at the bracts up to the flower. The sepals are ovate, rather acute, and unequal, and are probably reflexed from the fruit. The styles have a tendency to break off at a short distance from their thick base as the capsule enlarges, and in that state may be mistaken for such short ones as belong to *H. androsæmum*. The capsule is probably rather pointed when ripe, but I have not seen it in that state. It is certainly of that shape in an earlier state.

This plant is more nearly allied to *H. hircinum* than to *H. androsæmum*. It flowers in July, August and September.

Since this paper was written, Dr. Balfour has kindly placed in my hands all his specimens of these plants, and I learn from them that he gathered *H. anglicum* on the banks of the Crinan Canal in Argyleshire (1827), near Culross on the Frith of Forth (1833), and near Galway (1838). It will probably soon be noticed in many other places. It is hoped that these remarks will cause botanists to examine carefully all specimens named *H. androsæmum*, in order that we may soon be informed of the true claims of *H. anglicum* to be separated from it; and may also learn what is the geographical range of each of the plants.

X.—On the Ornithology of Malacca.

By ALFRED R. WALLACE, Esq.

ALTHOUGH Malacca birds are among the very commonest in European collections, I am not aware that the country has been visited by any ornithologist; a few remarks upon the birds I met with may not therefore be unacceptable to your readers. I spent nine weeks there, but for a fortnight I was ill in the town, and seven only were occupied in collecting. Nevertheless I made extensive collections of insects, and procured 135 species of Passerine birds. In the 'Annals' for May 1854 is a list of birds collected during a two years' residence at Barrackpore, which comprises only 127 land birds (including *Gallinææ* which I have not reckoned); and in a note of the numbers of Ceylon birds, kindly furnished me by Mr. Edgar L. Layard, I find 165 *Passeres* were the whole number known to him after several years' researches in that fertile island. Now, as I certainly have not obtained one-half of the birds to be procured in Malacca, we must conclude the locality to be an exceedingly productive one for the ornithologist.

Among the commonest and most characteristic birds are *Cymbirhynchus macrorynchus*, Gm., *Oriolus xanthonotus*, Horsf., *Nyctiornis amicta*, Sw. (one of the loveliest of Eastern birds), the beautiful azure and black *Irena puella*, Horsf., *Megalaima versicolor* (the commonest of the Barbets), *Calyptomena viridis* of Raffles (abundant); and beautiful Kingfishers are not uncommon. The first bird I have mentioned was that which I first shot, and I was both surprised and delighted at its extreme beauty, especially the bright colours of the enormous beak, which all fade in the dry specimens and are replaced by a dull black. The upper mandible is clear sky-blue; the lower bright orange-yellow, margined with blue, and the eyes emerald-green, or blue and black powdered; these colours all contrasting beautifully with the deep black, pure white, and rich claret colour of the