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cured in small quantities from plants, and used chiefly for medicinal purposes, and for perfumery, such as Soap-nut oil (*Sapindus emarginatus*), Cashew oil (*Anacardium occidentale*), Cotton oil (species of *Gossypium* and *Bombax*), Croton oil (*Croton Tiglium*), Bryony oil (species of *Bryonia*), Colocynth oil (*Citrullus Colocynthis*), Fenugreek oil (*Trigonella Fœnum Græcum*), and others. Mr Hawkes then referred to the use of fats and oils in currying and buffing leather, in burning in lamps, in lubricating, in preparing woollen cloths, in paints and varnishes, in the manufacture of candles and soap, and as articles of food. The paper was illustrated by specimens of the oils from the Museum of the Botanic Garden.

III. *Muscological Excursions to Ramsheugh and Glenfarg, Ochil Hills, Perthshire, and Habbie's How, Pentland Hills, in September last.* BY MR JOHN SADLER.

1. *Muscological Excursion to Ramsheugh and Glenfarg, and the Ochil Hills, in October 1858.*

The Ramsheugh is a wooded ravine on the northern side of the Ochil Hills, in Perthshire. It is a glen of no great extent, with a small cascade or waterfall at the upper extremity, and is perhaps as interesting for its botany as for its picturesque beauty.

On the trunks of the trees near the bottom of the glen, *Neckera complanata* was seen sparingly associated with *Pterogonium gracile* and *Sticta fuliginosa*, a rather rare British lichen. *Anomodon viticulosus* was abundant, and very fine on the rocks overshadowing the rivulet. On the blocks of stone which lie scattered along the margins of the water, *Isothecium myurum* was plentiful in fruit, *Hypnum striatum* also occurred here and there fertile, along with *Hypnum plumosum*, bearing abundance of capsules. *Hypnum ruscifolium* was frequent on the stones in the water. On the rocks in the immediate vicinity of the fall, and therefore moist, *Isothecium alopecurum* attained a beautiful tree-like form, and was fertile. *Mnium punctatum* was plentiful near their base in fructification, and *Mnium undulatum* was very large. *Orthotrichum Lyellii*, *O. affine*, and

O. crispum were also frequent on the trees growing on the banks.

Glenfarg is a narrow pass running through the Ochil Hills from north to south, with a low stone dyke on one side of the road, and rocks and precipitous banks on the other. The former affords abundance of *Racomitrium canescens*, *R. heterostichum* and *Hedwigia ciliata*, while the latter produces beautiful specimens of *Zygodon Mougeotii*, *Fissidens adiantoides*, *Hypnum serpens*, *H. praelongum*, *H. filicinum*, *Dicranum pellucidum*, and many other common mosses. *Bartramia fontana* and *Bryum Wahlenbergii* occur on the rocks near the Bein Inn.

2. *Muscological Excursion to Habbie's How in September 1858.**

Perhaps during no single day's excursion near Edinburgh can the bryologist collect more interesting and rare mosses than in going to Habbie's How by Dreghorn and Bonaly. In Dreghorn Park, *Leskea polyantha* occurs plentifully on the trunks of one or two trees. This is the only station around Edinburgh for the plant, indeed, there is only one other recorded Scottish habitat. *Orthotrichum Lyellii* is also frequent in the same situation, associated with *O. affine*. Between this and Bonaly, *Hypnum uncinatum*, *H. denticulatum* and *H. splendens* occur, as well as many other common species. *Leskea subrufa* was found in Bonaly ravine, a moss hitherto confined to Habbie's Howe in our Edinburgh flora. *Zygodon viridissimum*, another rarity, and *Weissia verticillata*, encrusted with carbonate of lime, occur sparingly on the rocks. *Leskea sericea* and *Hypnum molluscum* are also frequent. *Hypnum ruscifolium* is abundant on stones in the burn, and *Hypnum commutatum* grows in wide-spreading patches of a lively green on the wet rocks. The only other mosses met with worthy of notice were *Trichostomum flexicaule*, *Dicranum varium*, and several Bryums, including a curious specimen of *Bryum crudum*, with peculiar elongated capsules.

* In this excursion, I was accompanied by Dr W. Nicol, a zealous muscologist, who has just fallen a victim to typhoid fever at Alexandria, on his way to India. (May 1859.)

On the hills near Habbie's How *Racomitrium canescens* was seen in several places covering the ground, almost to the total exclusion of all other vegetation, except *Cornicularia aculeata*, which is not uncommon in sub-alpine districts. *Leucobryum glaucum* occurred even on some of the highest parts, associated with a stunted form of *Sphagnum cymbifolium*.

On the detached rocks near Habbie's How, *Andrea Rothii* is met with in considerable abundance, rather a rare plant, at least in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.

At the lower fall, *Racomitrium aciculare*, *R. fasciculare*, *Hypnum plumosum*, and many other good mosses are seen. The little spot between the two falls may be justly termed a cryptogamic garden. *Blindia acuta* occurs here in great profusion, also *Tortula tortuosa*, *Bartramia Oederi*, *Dicranum fuscescens*, *Bryum zierii*, *B. crudum*, *Leskea subrufa*, *Encalypta ciliata*, *Trichostomum flexicaule*, *Didymodon rubellus*, *Gymnostomum rupestre*, *Anæctangium compactum*, *Zygodon Mougeotii*, *Neckera crispa*, *Blasia pusilla*, *Cynodontium Bruntoni*, and *Hypnum ochraceum* which is new to the Edinburgh flora.

It is not unworthy of notice, that all these mosses, without exception, occur on the rocks facing the north, those facing the south being almost sterile. Besides these rarities, other mosses were observed, many of a more common nature, such as *Bryum cæspiticium*, *B. capillare*, *B. pallens*, *Dicranum pellucidum*, *Hypnum ruscifolium*, *H. rutabulum*, *H. molluscum*, and *H. loreum* in fruit, *Atrichum undulatum*, and *Isoetecium alopecurum*, the latter occurring sparingly in a fertile state. A little beyond the upper fall, *Bryum pseudo-triquetrum* was found, and in the water abundance of *Fontinalis antipyretica*, bearing its curious sessile capsules.

IV. On a Mode of Protecting Timber from Fire. By F. A. ABEL, Esq. Communicated by Dr CLEGHORN.

After mentioning various methods which have been adopted to render wood less combustible, by saturating it with solutions of phosphate of soda, and muriate or sulphate of alumina and chloride of calcium, the author remarks, that all that can be reasonably expected from the most