XVI. *Observations on the Zizania aquatica.* By Aylmer Bourke
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Read December 6, 1803.

ZIZANIA AQUATICA.

ZIZANIA paniculâ infernè racemosâ supernè spicatâ.

TAB. XIII.

Z. aquatica. Linn. Sp. Plant. 1408.

Z. palustris. Linn. Mant. 2. 295.

Z. palustris. Schreb. Gram. p. 54. tab. 29.

The seed of *Zizania aquatica* in a vegetating state from America was long a *desideratum* among the botanists of this country ; for although seeds were received here at different times, yet none of them grew. At last Dr. Nooth, by the desire of Sir Joseph Banks, sent them from the lakes of Canada, put up in jars of water. As soon as they arrived they were sown in a proper situation, where they came up in a few days, and the plants ripened their seeds extremely well in the autumn. In a pond at Spring-Grove Sir Joseph Banks has a great quantity of this plant, growing annually, ripening its seeds, and sowing itself round the edges ; and I am persuaded that it might be sown with some advantage where no other grain will grow, in many shallow pieces of water in Great Britain and Ireland, especially in the latter country, where I have seen several extensive lakes which appear well suited for the purpose. It grows in great abundance in the lakes of
Canada ;

Lixania aquatica

Canada; and the seeds, which are as large as oats, and perhaps as nutritive, are used by the Indians for food; as may be seen in *Carver's Travels in America*, and also in *Kalm's Travels*, vol. 3. p. 32 and 54.

This species has been so fully described already by Linnæus in his *Mantissa*, that any further description would be superfluous: but as the figures which have been hitherto given of it are very imperfect, I beg leave to present the Society with a plate engraved from a drawing made from a plant growing at Spring-Grove.

Dr. Smith, on the authority of the Linnæan Herbarium, informs me that this is certainly what Linnæus meant by *Zizania palustris* in his *Mantissa*, although it is what he had previously described in both editions of his *Species Plantarum* under the name of *Z. aquatica*, as the original specimen shows. It seems however that he latterly intended Sloane's plant, *Hist. of Jamaica*, tab. 67. to remain as the *aquatica*, conceiving that, on account of its great spreading panicle, to be a different plant. Linnæus notes in his manuscript that *Z. terrestris* of *Hort. Malab.* v. 12. t. 60. should be examined, in order to be distinguished from this in the specific character. He further remarks, that the above plant, *Zizania palustris*, which he had in his garden, was well figured in a dissertation *de Alimentis farinaceis*, published at Leyden in 1760 by J. Scheuchzer. Probably Browne's synonym belongs rather to Sloane's plant.

Fig. A. in the annexed plate represents a male Glume, with the Anthers magnified.

B. An Anther highly magnified.

C. Female Glume, natural size.

d. The other side of the same.

D. The same highly magnified.

E. The same opened, showing the Pistillum.

F. Pistillum, with the Germ, Styles, and Nectary.

G. Seeds, natural size. H. Seed dissected.