This article was downloaded by: [New York University]

On: 04 February 2015, At: 23:27

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>

II. Notes on Monstrosities of *Primula vulgaris*, Huds., and *Saxifraga stellan's*, L

Alexander Dickson

Published online: 29 Nov 2010.

To cite this article: Alexander Dickson (1873) II. Notes on Monstrosities of *Primula vulgaris*, Huds., and *Saxifraga stellan's*, L, Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, 12:1-4, 435-436, DOI: [10.1080/03746607309469550](https://doi.org/10.1080/03746607309469550)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03746607309469550>

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>

II. *Notes on Monstrosities of Primula vulgaris, Huds., and Saxifraga stellaris, L.* By Professor ALEXANDER DICKSON.

The abnormal flowers of *Primula vulgaris* exhibited were collected in 1874 at Pitlochrie, Perthshire, by the late Professor Inglis of Aberdeen. The peculiarity consists in the development of five narrow petaloid segments, which alternate with the lobes of the corolla. These narrow segments are not organs simply adherent to the inner surface of the corolla, like "epipetalous" stamens, but their bases form a continuous sheet of tissue with the petals. At first sight the abnormality appears to resemble the doubling of Primroses, often seen in cultivation. In the ordinary double Primrose, however, the additional petaloid lobes are metamorphosed stamens and are *opposite* to (not alternate with) the lobes of the corolla. In the abnormality exhibited, the superadded petaloid pieces are simply interpetaline lobes analogous to the intersepaline lobes in the calyx of *Nemophila*, *Campanula Medium*, &c. One of the most interesting points connected with this is that in the Order Primulaceæ we have a genus, *Soldanella*, in which interpetaline lobes occur. In *S. montana*, for example, the limb of the corolla exhibits five broader lobes, which are trifid, and five narrower ones, which are entire, alternating with them. In this monstrous *Primula* we thus have an abnormal development, imitating, so to speak, the normal condition of an allied genus.

The plant of *Saxifraga stellaris*, from which the specimens exhibited were obtained, was found by Dr A. P. Aitken, on Ben Challum, near Tyndrum. It had three flowering stems, which had about their middle a few scattered narrow bracts, with what appear to be viviparous buds in their axils. Each of these stems is terminated by a monstrous flower, with somewhat numerous sepals in several series, stamens probably about as many, and a vast number of separate carpels, forming an apocarpous gynæcium, almost like that in *Ranunculus*. There seem to be no petals developed. This monstrosity is almost exactly parallel to the monstrous flowers not unfrequently found terminating the inflorescence of *Digitalis purpurea* where we have a

multiplication of the parts of the floral envelopes and andrœcium, and a pistil composed often of several whorls of carpels.

13th January 1876.—ALEXANDER BUCHAN, A.M., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read:—

- I. *On the Hungarian Oak* (*Quercus conferta* of Kitaibel) as Cultivated in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.
By Dr MAXWELL T. MASTERS. Communicated by Professor BALFOUR. (Plate VII.)

On the occasion of a visit paid to the Royal Botanic Garden during the summer of the past year, my attention was drawn by Mr M'Nab to a handsome deciduous Oak, known under the provisional or commercial name of *Q. pannonica*. As an ornamental tree it is deservedly a great favourite with that gentleman, who knows how to employ it picturesquely to the best advantage. It was my privilege to "assist at" the removal and replanting of one of these trees in July last, in that speedy and satisfactory manner familiar to those who have had experience with Mr M'Nab's method of transplantation, and with the machine devised by his father for that purpose. In consideration of these circumstances, I may be excused for feeling a kind of personal interest in this Oak, so much so that I felt it a duty incumbent upon me to endeavour to unravel the history of the tree, and ascertain its precise botanical status. The results of my researches I now beg leave to submit to the Society; I must, however, speak of it as *Q. conferta* rather than as *Q. pannonica*, as it has been duly registered under the former name, while the latter appellation is a mere commercial or garden name.

Q. conferta forms a handsome round-headed tree of moderate size, with spreading branches and grey, cracked bark. The young shoots are more or less hairy, but become glabrous. The leaves are deciduous, very shortly stalked or