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On: 18 February 2015, At: 03:33

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>

Report on Australian and New Zealand Plants grown on the East Coast of Arran

Rev. D. Landsborough^a

^a Kilmarnock

Published online: 01 Dec 2010.

To cite this article: Rev. D. Landsborough (1886) Report on Australian and New Zealand Plants grown on the East Coast of Arran , Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, 16:1-4, 194-197, DOI: [10.1080/03746608609468259](https://doi.org/10.1080/03746608609468259)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03746608609468259>

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recent Exhibition, an important nucleus of an Arboricultural Museum has been formed, and is waiting for a suitable home. The members of this Society, many of whom have laboured so well for the Exhibition, should not rest satisfied until they have established and equipped a School of Forestry in this city, so as to secure the continued progress of forest science.

Report on Australian and New Zealand Plants grown on the East Coast of Arran. By the Rev. D. LANDSBOROUGH, Kilmarnock.

(Read November 13, 1884.)

The island of Arran enjoys a climate in which the severity of winter is as little felt as in any part of Britain. The east coast is specially mild, as here cold frosty winds are tempered by crossing the sea, while their force is destroyed by the high mountains of the Goatfell range rising immediately from the coast to a height of 2866 feet, which so lift up the wind, that trees along the coast, instead of being scourged, actually in full luxuriance overhang the sea at high tide. I have therefore confined the experiments which I have been kindly permitted to make, to this side of the island. The measurements were taken in the beginning of August, and unless otherwise mentioned, were made 5 feet from the ground.

Gum Trees.—The first place is due to the Gums, as these are the loftiest trees in the world. Fortunately my list includes two of the most notable species—the Blue Gum, growing to the height of 330 feet, and famous for its sanitary properties: and the Almond-leaved Gum, which grows in Australia to the height of 430 feet.

Eucalyptus globulus (Blue Gum), at Lamlash.—Girth, 1 foot 7½ inches; height, about 30 feet. Another at Strabane, Brodick, was planted this spring.

Eucalyptus amygdalina, Corrie, (Almond-leaved Gum), 25 feet high, 11 inches in girth.

Eucalyptus coriacea (White Gum), Lamlash.—The seed of this tree was received in the spring of 1879. The tree is now 14 feet 6½ inches in height, with a girth of 4½ inches.

Eucalyptus Gunnii (Mountain White Gum), Lamdash, 3 feet 10 inches in height.

Eucalyptus alpina (Alpine Gum), Corrie, 3 feet in height.

With the exception of the blue and the alpine, these species are also growing at the Rev. Dr Story's, Rose-neath; Mr Scoular's, Tighnabruaich; and at Ballinakill, Kintyre. Their hardihood will thus be further tested. In Arran not a leaf of the White Gum (*E. coriacea*) was even browned in the severe winter of 1879-80. This year at the Forestry Exhibition I saw branches of these and other species from Antibes, in the south-west coast of France. They were not a whit more luxuriant than similar branches in Arran, though the rate of growth at Antibes is three or four times greater.

Cabbage Trees.—The Cordylines are favourite plants in Australia, avenues being formed of them, as at Ballarat Botanic Garden. They grow in Arran in the utmost luxuriance, and have never been even browned by frost.

Cordyline indivisa, 12 feet 10 inches high (including leaves), 1 foot 5 inches girth 18 inches from the ground; leaves 3 feet 10 inches in length, 2 inches in breadth.

Cordyline Veitchii, 9 feet 11 inches high, 1 foot 4 inches girth at 12 inches from the ground; leaves 2 feet 11 inches in length by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch broad.

Cordyline australis, 9 feet 7 inches high, 11 inches girth at 12 inches from the ground; leaves 3 feet 7 inches long and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad.

As these Cordylines are in perfect health and growing rapidly, it may be expected that they will bloom ere long. The specimen of *C. indivisa* was sown in 1872; the others were received from a friend at a later date.

Tree Ferns.—So far as I am aware, the island of Arran is the only place in Britain where Tree Ferns, altogether unprotected, grow luxuriantly in the open air. Three species have been tried. *Cyathea dealbata* stood a winter, but was stolen the following summer. The two growing at present are *Dicksonia antarctica*, 1 foot 11 inches high, girth 2 feet 3 inches; its crown consists of sixteen fronds, each about $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length by 1 foot

inches in breadth. *Dicksonia squarrosa*, 7 inches high, 10 inches in girth, fronds 2 feet 8 inches in length by 1 foot 3 inches in breadth. *Dicksonia antarctica* was planted in 1867, when it was very small—about the size of a plant of *Cystopteris fragilis*. It was ten years before the stem began to grow in height, having in this time acquired its full girth. *Dicksonia squarrosa* was planted in 1877, and had then a stem about 4 inches in height. It is in a colder situation than *D. antarctica*, and was accidentally much injured a summer ago.

Todea superba and *Todea hymenophylloides* both grow well.

Beefwoods.—*Casuarina equisetifolia* (He-Oak), 10 feet 10½ inches in height, was planted in 1882, when it was 8½ feet high. I hope by another year to try *C. quadrivalvis* (She-Oak), and *C. suberosa* (Cork Oak), of both of which I have specimens.

Pittosporums.—*Pittosporum tenuifolium*, planted this year in Brodick Castle High Garden.

Brambles.—*Rubus australis*, planted this year in the High Garden, Brodick Castle, on a north wall, where it is growing admirably, and has a more tropical appearance than any plant in the garden, its leaves being even finer than those of *Aralia Veitchii*, and much more curious, as they are studded over with little white prickles. They would form a beautiful fringe to a bouquet. If abundant in Australia, its innumerable prickles must render it a perfect torment in the bush, for they are sharp and turned back, and will catch and hold and tear.

Wattles.—*Acacia melanoxylon* (the Black-wood of Australia). This tree, so valuable as an ornamental timber in Australia, had not a leaf browned by the severe winters four or five years ago. It grew most luxuriantly, which proved its destruction, as it was blown over by the storms of last winter. *A. pycnantha* (Golden or Broad-leaf Wattle), a young plant in Captain Brown's garden, Lamblash, is uninjured. *A. decurrens* (Green or Feather-leaf Wattle), 5 feet in height, in Captain Brown's garden, Lamblash. This is a most beautiful plant.

The Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton diversifolium*).—This

curious plant receives its name from the stem at the base swelling into the shape of a bottle. I have the promise of one of these Australian Bottles for Arran.

The Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhæa arborea*).—This very remarkable plant (see Balfour's *Class-Book of Botany*, pp. 92 and 930) is very rare in this country, though well known in the plains of Australia. Through the kindness of a friend, its leaves are now waving in front of his house, enjoying the great heat of our present weather (August 11). Soon I hope to see them waving in a favourable situation in Arran. I might mention that I saw, in the possession of James Wilson, Esq., Kilmarnock, a walking-stick of Grass-tree wood. It had been shown at the Dunedin Industrial Exhibition.

Miscellaneous Plants, not Australian.—Camellia (blooms freely), Myrtle (blooms abundantly), *Buddleia globosa* (in bloom, very beautiful); *Desfontainea spinosa*, 7 feet 6 inches high, and covered with flowers; *Photinia serrulata*, *Elæagnus reflexa variegata*, *Euonymus latifolius aureus*, 4 feet 9 inches high; *Coccoloba vespertilionis*; *Platanus orientalis*, 3 feet 8 inches in girth; *Schizostylis coccinea*, blooms most abundantly every year; *Cunninghamia sinensis* (Chinese broad-leaved Fir), planted about 1858 by the late Mr Townley.

Notes on some of the larger Palms in the Palm-Stove of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. By ROBERT LINDSAY, Curator.

(Read January 8, 1885.)

On the completion of the new Palm-house at the Royal Botanic Garden in 1858, the late Professor Balfour gave, in our *Transactions* (vol. vi. p. 128), a detailed account of this fine structure, including a description of some of the larger Palms then growing, and their respective heights. The late Mr M'Nab also communicated to the Society from time to time much information regarding them. The object at present is to record the progress that has been made during the last twenty-seven years by those plants which still exist, and also to give some information regarding younger plants, several of which give indications of erelong outstripping the older ones. Of the old Palms