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III. On the Variation, at different Seasons, of a Hieracium, considered to be *H. stoloniflorum*, Waldst. and Kit., as described in Fries' "Symbolæ ad Historiam Hieraciorum," Upsala, 1848, p. 5

Professor Balfour

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Wolverhampton was the first to detect it on the mountain. A very characteristic moss when examined closely, although at first sight it might be overlooked as a form of *H. cupressiforme* or *H. callichroum*.

Andreæa falcata is met with sparingly in several spots. It is another remarkable circumstance, that the *Andreææ* are not well represented on the mountain; probably the friable nature of the rocks for the most part, is the main reason why this tribe cannot secure a sufficient hold. On the schistose rocks the species are almost entirely absent, and it is only when the trap presents that any tufts have maintained a place.

With this closes the record of rare mosses found on Ben Lawers, so far at least as I know, or have discovered them. The list might have been considerably extended; but I have abstained from including many which, although comparatively rare, are common enough on our Highland mountains,—as *Ædipodium Griffithianum*, which I have secured on almost all our western mountains, of any considerable elevation, and nowhere in greater profusion than on Ben Ina, at the head of Loch Long, where, on one occasion, I secured hundreds of capsules within an area of a few feet.

Considering the limited extent of the ground, there is no mountain in Great Britain that can at all be compared with Ben Lawers in the richness and variety of its flora. The labours of Admiral Jones, Carrol, Crombie, and others in the section of lichens, show a corresponding richness; and much as they have done, patiently and perseveringly, the field in this respect is not yet exhausted, as I may soon have occasion to show.

III. *On the Variation, at different Seasons, of a Hieracium, considered to be H. stoloniflorum, Waldst. and Kit., as described in Fries' "Symbole ad Historiam Hieraciorum," Upsala, 1848, p. 5. By Professor BALFOUR. (Plates II. III.)*

The author remarked that this plant, which grows abundantly on the banks of the Granton railway, and which had been described by him last year in the Transactions, vol. x.

p. 317, had been found by Mr Sadler, his assistant, to present peculiar forms at different periods of the year. These forms are not only important in themselves, but they are valuable as indicating the necessity of caution in determining species of *Hieracium* by an examination of the plant at one season only. In June, there are two forms of this plant (Plate II. fig. 1, Plate III. fig. 1); both produce small capitula of flowers, on primary bifurcating axes, but one form gives off stolons (fig. 2), while the other does not. Many of these stolons flower in August—the capitula occurring in corymbose clusters (Plate III. fig. 2), and being much larger than in the June forms; other stolons take root near their extremities, and become independent plants. A few of the new plants produce one or two large capitula on primary axes in October and November (Plate II. fig. 2); others do not produce flowers till the succeeding year, when they flower like the June forms. The new plants which flower in October and November give off young stolons, which may also flower the following year.

Specimens of the different forms were exhibited.

This *Hieracium* is doubtfully referred to *H. stoloniflorum*. Dr Boswell Syme considers it to be another species, *H. pedunculatum*. He has communicated with Professor Fries on the subject. It is to be hoped that ere long a decided opinion will be given. Fries, in his "Epicrisis Generis Hieraciorum," puts *H. stoloniflorum* under the subgenus *Pilosella* and suborder *Pilosellinæ*. He describes flagellar forms of the plant.

Mr H. Trimen agrees with Dr Balfour in considering the plant to be *H. stoloniflorum*, Waldst. and Kit.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES.

Plate II.

Fig. 1. June form of a species of *Hieracium*, probably *H. stoloniflorum* without a stolon.

Fig. 2. October and November form of the same *Hieracium*.

Plate III.

Fig. 1. June form of the same *Hieracium*, with stolons.

Fig. 2. August form of the same *Hieracium*, with flower-bearing stolons.

IV. *Miscellaneous Communications.*

1. Mr Sadler made some remarks on specimens of a form of *Centaurea*, which he had collected in September last on the Ochil Hills, near Forgandenny, in Perthshire. It is the *C. pratensis* of French authors, and seems to connect *C. nigra* with *C. Jacea*; it can, however, easily be distinguished from typical forms of these plants, by the foliage, involucre, and absence of hairs.

2. A note was read from Mr J. F. Duthie regarding two forms of *Pyrus fennica*, Bab., in Arran. Dr Boswell Syme considers them both as *P. scandica*—the one with the lower pinnæ separated, being *P. scandica* var. *pinnatifida*. Mr Duthie had tasted the fruit of the Arran *P. pinnatifida*, and found it quite sweet, whereas Fries states that the fruit of *P. fennica* is acid.

3. Professor Dickson exhibited a plant of the Chinese primrose, having stamens and style of the same length (short), although in this species, as in the other dimorphic primroses, they are usually of different lengths. This form is interesting, inasmuch as in an abnormal cowslip, described some years ago by Mr John Scott, the stamens and style, although of the same length, were both long.

4. Mr J. A. Tinne, of Liverpool, presented seeds of *Telfairia pedata*, which are being imported from Africa for yielding oil. It is a Cucurbitaceous plant, which produces a large fruit, containing upwards of a hundred seeds, which are sweet and good to eat. (*Botan. Mag. Tab.*, 2571, 2572.)

5. Principal Dawson, Montreal, presented specimens of several fossil plants from the Devonian rocks, including several species of *Psilophyton*.

6. Dr Parnell presented a large collection of dried plants from Hungary, which had been collected and named by M. Noe.

7. Dr Little presented Coco-nuts which had been produced on trees grown in his garden at Singapore. These trees are a dwarf variety of the common Coco-nut palm (never more than 6 or 7 feet high), and fruit freely every season.

8. Mr William Evans presented specimens of *Calama-*

grostis lanceolata, which he had found last summer growing abundantly on the south bank of the Esk, near Penicuik.

9 Mr John Sim recorded *Butomus umbellatus* as having been found by Colonel Drummond, growing abundantly on the banks of the Tay, near Seggieden, in Perthshire.

10 Dr Stanley Haynes exhibited specimens of ivy stems, showing natural grafting.

11. Mr Hugh Fraser presented a triple spathe and spadix of *Richardia aethiopica*.

12. Mr D. A. P. Watt presented specimens of *Cystopteris montana* and *Botrychium Lunaria*, from Canada.

12th January 1871.—ALEXANDER BUCHAN, M.A President,
in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society :—

1. *Resident Fellow.*

ANDREW P. AITKEN, 1 Oxford Terrace.

W. B. BOYD of Ormiston, Kelso.

2. *Foreign Corresponding Member.*

HUGH ALGERNON WEDDELL, M.D., Poitiers.

The following Communications were read :—

I. *Note on the Practical Application of Meteorology to the Improvement of Climate.* By ALEXANDER BUCHAN, President.

Mr Buchan stated that, in the Journal of the Scottish Meteorological Society for April 1870, there appeared a valuable paper by Mr D. Milne Home, on “ Suggestions for Increasing the Supply of Spring Water at Malta, and Improving its Climate,” in which the author shows that plantations would increase the water supply of the island, and ameliorate its climate. This paper awakened the greatest interest in Malta, and a Government Commission,

Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.

W. H. M. Farlane, Lith. Edin.

FORMS OF A SPECIES OF HIERACIUM (*H. STOLONIFLORUM*? W. & K.)

W. H. McFarlane, Lith. Edin.

FORMS OF A SPECIES OF HIERACIUM (*H. STOLONIFLORUM*? W. & K.)