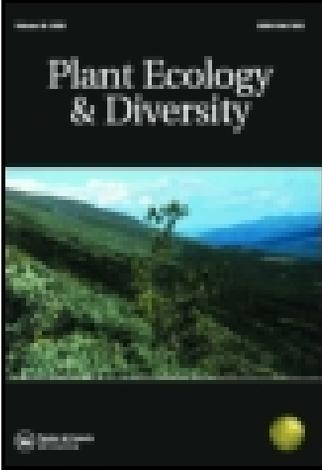


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IV. Notice of Plants collected in Iceland

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This gale of 1842 happened before Mr Griffith had denuded the garden of most of its fine timber trees. The garden was then thickly covered with trees; and accordingly the number lost in that gale bore a very small proportion to the vast number left standing. In May 1843, eleven months after the gale, Mr Griffith, in his report to Government, says—"At present the garden is literally choked with trees." Had more trees existed in the garden when the Cyclone of last October occurred, it is most likely that less damage would have been sustained, as the trees would have sheltered each other. In a garden liable to be devastated at any time by furious storms, every arborescent species should be represented by at least five specimens. Unique specimens of many species must always exist, but still the endeavours of the Director should be to procure, if possible, five specimens of each species.

IV. *Notice of Plants collected in Iceland.* By M. ED. JARDIN, Cherbourg.

I have much pleasure in offering to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh some specimens of plants which I collected during my visit to Iceland, Faröes, and Norway. Perhaps there are some new species, but I have neither time nor books, nor experience sufficient to make a complete study of them. I shall, however, notice some plants which deserve attention, on account of their station and locality.

A species of *Equisetum* was gathered by me in hot-springs near Reykjavik; and in the place where it grows, the water was disagreeably warm to the hand. A species of *Chara*, and a *Potamogeton* were also gathered in those hot waters. In the waters of the hot-springs of the Geysers, in the interior of Iceland, a *Juncus* grows very near to the boiling cauldron. This is nearly always covered by the water, when it spreads outward from the opening; there is also a kind of *Conferva* from the dry bed of a rivulet which is filled after the eruption. Some mosses and lichens have been gathered on the summits of the mountains, and a fern, *Cystopteris fragilis* in the *Almannegiaa*, which is a rock where, in the older times, the *Althing* was convoked

every year. On the way from this side to the Geysers, the same fern is found in a cavern, or rather a hole in the mountain, called Reidarbarmer. Between this place to the hot-springs, we met with *Betula nana*, and another species of this genus, also an orchis, and two willows, and some other plants. This is, I dare say, the paradise of this part of Iceland, though the birches do not grow to a greater size than eight or ten feet at most.

As for the plants from Norway, I collected them in the environs of Bergen and Stavanger. It was too late (September) to find Phanerogams in flower, and for this reason I only gathered a few, but there are a greater number of Cryptogams. As we remained only for two or three hours on the Farøe Islands, I only gathered a few species which fell in my way. I hope that those specimens of the vegetation of northern countries will be agreeable to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh.

V. *Letter from Mr WILLIAM MILNE, dated Cameroon, Africa, 27th June 1865. Communicated by Mr JOHN SADLER.*

Mr Milne alludes to the improvement which has taken place in Fernando Po and its vicinity, by the clearing of the ground and the planting of chocolate trees and cotton. By the end of this year one firm will have upwards of 100,000 cocoa trees above ground, and these plants will produce in 1867 about 500,000lbs. of cocoa. During the early stage of the plantation, cotton is planted among the chocolate trees. Coffee has also been extensively planted, and thrives well. Mr Milne alludes to the bark of a tree called Saricu. He says it is more rapidly fatal in its effects than the Calabar bean, and it is used as an ordeal poison by the natives. He alludes to the introduction of the mango, breadfruit, soursop, citron, tamarind, and other important plants into Calabar and the Gaboon. Mr Milne then gives an account of an excursion to the Cameroon Mountains, and notices some of the plants collected.

Mr Sadler read a note he had received from the Rev. Mr