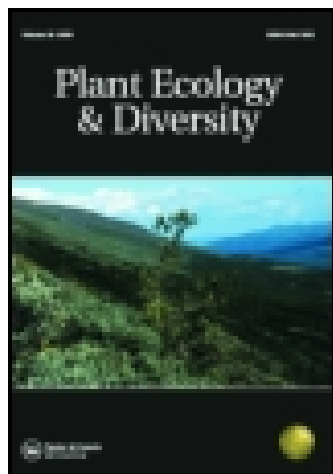


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II. Notice of a Physiological Peculiarity in a specimen of *Tropæolum majus*

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II. *Notice of a Physiological Peculiarity in a specimen of Tropæolum majus.* By CHRISTOPHER DRESSER, Esq.
Communicated by ALEXANDER DICKSON Esq.

The author recorded a phenomenon which he had observed in a plant of *Tropæolum majus* growing in a damp part of one of his greenhouses. A pendant shoot of this plant had by accident become so much bruised and constricted, at a point about twelve inches from its extremity, as to prevent the transmission of sap from the root to the extremity of the branch, the terminal portions being connected with the rest of the plant merely by a fragment of withered bark and dried wood. This terminal portion, instead of presenting the very slight hairiness found in the ordinary state of the plant, had become extremely villous, the leaves being densely covered with white-looking hairs, so as to be quite velvety. The hairs were more densely congregated on the leaves than on the axis, and more so on the distal younger portions than on those nearer the seat of stricture,—this latter circumstance, probably resulting from the hair not being separated by the expansion of growth. The hairs on the petioles measured about $\frac{1}{8}$ th or $\frac{1}{10}$ th of an inch, being rather longer than those on the laminæ. The hairs were equally distributed over both surfaces of the leaf, and appeared to be a little longer on the veins.

The author alludes to the power possessed by hairs of absorbing dew, &c., and concludes that this portion of the plant had for weeks been nourished by the agency of these hairs; also that these organs were developed specially for the accomplishment of this end, since, in the ordinary condition of this plant, the hairs are extremely small and not numerous.

The author draws the inference that hairs are of little value as furnishing specific characters, since certain plants at least can and do protrude hairs under certain conditions.

III. *Notes on Californian Trees.* By ANDREW MURRAY,
F.R.S.E. PART II. Plates VIII., IX., X., XI.

WELLINGTONIA GIGANTEA. The Mammoth Tree.
(Woodcut, and Plates VIII. and IX.)

The history of this long-lived tree has been so fully detailed by the various authors who have noticed it, and more particularly by Dr Seemann, so recently as March last, in the "Annals and Magazine of Natural History," that I should not have thought of including it as one of the subjects of my notes, were it not for the sake of some photographs of the tree sent me by my brother, copies of which will, I feel sure, be acceptable to the public.

It is so far well that the possession of these photographs should have in a measure constrained me to include a notice of this tree in my list, as most certainly notes on Californian