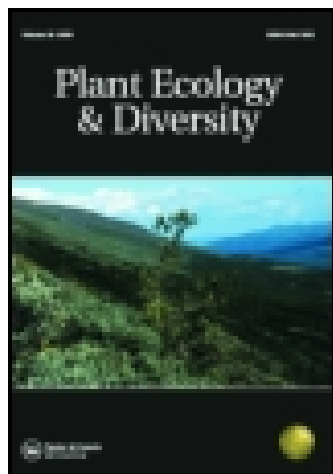


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II. Does Magnetism Influence Vegetation?

Professor Balfour

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expressively terms "growing weather," when the ground is moist enough to ensure its immediate penetration, and there is sufficient warmth and geniality in both air and earth. The author stated that he had made numerous and varied experiments with the bicarbonate during the last five or six years, on wheat, oats, peas, &c., as well as roses, lupins, sweet peas, and many other garden plants; and that their results, along with the theoretical considerations alluded to, justified him in recommending the bicarbonated ammonia solution, as deserving of a thorough trial both by farmers and gardeners.

II. *Does Magnetism Influence Vegetation?* By H. F.

BAXTER. Communicated by Professor BALFOUR.

The author states that the results of his inquiry into this subject are negative, that is, no positive evidence has been obtained to show that magnetism either does or does not influence vegetation. After noticing the opinions of Becquerel, Dutrochet, and Wartmann, the author says:—"As it may be considered a law in vegetable physiology that all plants have a tendency, during the germination of their seeds, to develop in two diametrically opposite directions (the root and the stem), the question arose—might not this direction be influenced or counteracted by submitting the seeds, whilst germinating, to the influence of magnetic force." Accordingly, a series of experiments were undertaken by the author, which are classed under two principal heads: 1st, Those in which the line of magnetic force was directed *perpendicularly* to the plants; and 2d, in which the line of force was directed *transversely* to the plant. The author gave details of the experiments, which were varied and multiplied. No definite conclusions, however, could be drawn from them relative to the effect of magnetism.

III. *On Lycium mediterraneum*. By Dr THOMAS ANDERSON, H.E.I.C.S. Communicated by Professor BALFOUR.

Dr Anderson states that, after careful and repeated examination of specimens of *L. Edgeworthii*, Dunal, he is convinced that Dunal's so-called species is only a variety of *L. mediterraneum* (*L. europæum*, Linn.) Dr Anderson then gave revised characters for the species, and concluded with observations on the effects of the climate of India in modifying the habits of plants, and giving rise to numerous varieties.