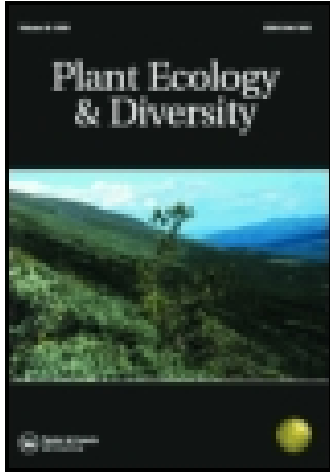


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### II. Note on the Structure of Fossil Stems (Araucarioxylon) from Redhall and Craigleith Quarries

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Strasburger is driven to the assertion, that in the cycads ovaries are produced on the margins of leaves, and that they thus constitute an isolated type in the vegetable kingdom.

No one has hitherto doubted that these leaves in the cycads are opened-out carpels, bearing ovules on the margin. Are we not then justified when we recognise these ovules to be identical in structure with like bodies in the conifers, to assert that the latter are ovules also—the ovules in the former case being developed in the marginal, in the latter case in the axile type of placentation.

Dr Eichler leaves the nature of the outer covering of the Gnetaceæ undecided, but concludes his paper by stating that he believes the covering of the nucleus in conifers to be an ovular integument; that the outermost covering in Gnetum may be an ovary; and if such is the case, that the metamorphosis of the leaf organs in the two groups is different, and, indeed, is of such a nature as to establish the order Gnetaceæ as a link connecting the Gymnosperms with the Angiosperms.

II. *Note on the Structure of Fossil Stems (Araucarioxylon) from Redhall and Craigleith Quarries.* By C. W. PEACH, A.L.S.

Mr Peach states that some years ago he found a specimen of wood-like appearance enclosed in sandstone at Redhall Quarry, near Slatford. It had such a rough and coarse surface that he thought no structure could be found in it, and laid it aside; and only when the Craigleith trees were discovered last year was he led to examine it. As it was composed of minute crystals of iron, it required several hours hard grinding to make the sections exhibited. They, however, show the structure to be that of the *Araucarioxylon (Pinites) Withami*, found in Craigleith Quarry in 1830. It is evidently part of a branch, about 1 inch in length,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches by  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter, showing that it had been flattened by pressure. The outside is fluted, and partly covered with a black shining substance having much the appearance of bark. The specimen is black and very heavy. He also exhibited several sections

made from portions of the tree found in 1830, given to him by Mr Forbes, the representative of Wallace & Co., marble masons; pieces from the old tree in the Royal Botanic Garden, and bits from other sources, and in all these he found the structure constant; and when compared with sections made from trees found at Craighleith in 1873, he found that all showed the same structure as those figured in Witham's work, on the Structure of Fossil Vegetables, published in 1833. He stated also, that in many of the sections he found medullary rays. In addition to the above, he also mentioned that he had found small specimens of wood enclosed in the thin limestones in Camstone Quarry, Arthur Seat, showing perfectly the structure of the Araucarioxylon.

III. *Notes on the Propagation of Drosera dichotoma, Labill.* By Mr M'NAB.

This Sundew is one of those curious plants rarely seen in cultivation. It is a native of Sydney, New South Wales; and although it was introduced into this country nearly thirty years ago, under the name *Drosera binata*, Sm. ("Bot. Mag.," t. 3082), it still remains very scarce in British gardens. Hitherto the mode of increasing the plant has been by subdivision of the crown of the root, which is done during early spring before the leaves unfold. This is a slow method of propagation, as the plants require to be of considerable size before subdivision can be resorted to. Of late years attention has been directed to the root propagation of the Ipecacuanha and other plants. Mr Robert Lindsay, the plant foreman in the Royal Botanic Garden, endeavoured to increase this Sundew by root propagation, and his efforts have been crowned with success. The roots for the purpose of propagation are generally taken from strong-growing plants during the process of crown-division. They are black, and of a wiry consistency, and are cut into numerous pieces from half an inch to an inch or more in length. These are laid on the surface of shallow earthenware pans or flower-pots, filled with a mixture of sandy peat soil, and are covered about half an inch deep with the same mixture. They are then enclosed with