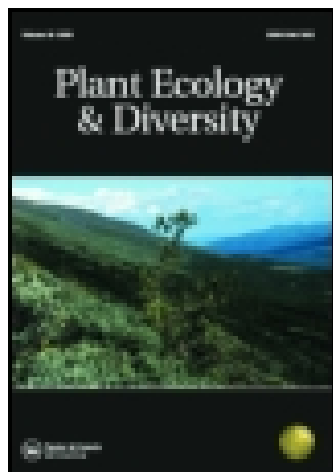


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II. Notice of Plants found in the neighbourhood of Comrie, Perthshire

Mr D. P. MacLagan

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castor oil, and tobacco. Each village had a group of date palms, and often *Zizyphus spina Christi*. The dhom palm was not observed further north than 28 degs. Dr Kirk observed that the weather on the Nile had been very variable and cold last season, yet invalids in general were very much improved during their residence in the upper country. In Syria the spring was late, so that few flowers had appeared except in the rich valleys near Tiberias, which were covered with a profusion of beautiful plants. In the north, that is between Beyrout and Damascus, the mulberry is the great source of wealth; the olive, vine, apricot, and walnut, are also grown; in the south, the cereals, vine, and olive. The oranges are very fine at Jaffa, whence they are taken to Constantinople.

II. Notice of Plants found in the neighbourhood of Comrie, Perthshire. By Mr D. P. MACLAGAN.

Before proceeding to details, Mr MacLagan called attention to the importance of local floras, as a means of extending our knowledge of the geographical distribution of plants. After a few remarks on the situation and climate, he described some of the more important parts of the district. Glen Artney was the first noticed; the more important plants were *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, *Calamintha Clinopodium*, and *Lastrea Oreopteris*,—the prevailing wood being hazel, birch, and oak. In Glen Lednock, a fine pass extending north from Comrie, ferns abound; the flowering plants, among others, embrace *Viola palustris*, *Hieracium diaphanum*, *Listera cordata* and other Orchids, *Pyrola rotundifolia*, and *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa*. In the hilly part of the Glen, the common subalpine species are plentiful. Loch Erne and its vicinity produce many plants, such as *Carum verticillatum*, *Lobelia*, species of *Potamogeton*, *Carices* and *Fungi*. In the woods on the banks of the loch many grasses are found, *Poa nemoralis* being of the number. In the river Erne, and near its banks, the var. *grandiflorus* of *Ranunculus hederaceus*, *Ænanthe crocata*, and *Sedum Telephium*. Some larches on the road between Comrie and St Fillans are worthy of note. In Glen Ogle many species are found of *Veronica*, *Viola*, *Sempervivum tectorum*, and *Sedum*

being at the same time so likely to turn to good account in realising a solid reputation; and as to the supposed difficulties of mastering botany in its present state to a sufficient extent, he would only say, for the benefit of the many young gentlemen whom he saw present, that they had but to enter on the study of the structure of the vegetable kingdom with the same zeal and with the same spirit with which they were wont to prosecute the study of human anatomy, and these difficulties would be at an end. Dr Seller then proceeded to say, that it is now nearly twenty-two years since this Society was established; that the anniversary of its institution is still annually commemorated with enthusiasm; but that there is another duty which too often falls to the lot of the newly-elected President at the commencement of a session, on taking the chair, as he did that evening, the melancholy duty of recording the names of such members as have been gathered to their fathers in the course of the past year; that in two successive years the President for the time had been taken from among them in both cases by an unexpected summons; that little more than eighteen months ago Colonel Madden, the then President, had been suddenly cut off; that less than a month since Professor Fleming, the President of the past year, had gone to the grave with hardly a longer warning; that many here present must remember Professor Balfour's affecting and just tribute to the memory of Colonel Madden at one of the summer meetings in the Botanic Gardens in 1856; that it was now his duty to call upon them to join their regrets with his on the death of Professor Fleming. He said that Dr Fleming had attained a considerable age; but that, nevertheless, his death had come upon them like a thunder-clap,—that they were so accustomed to look upon the instances of bodily and mental vigour which he so frequently exhibited in the discharge of his academical duties, and in the part he took in the various scientific institutions of which he was a member, as so many indications of his being, though advanced in years, young in constitution, that they never felt it to be possible that he should not be left among them till he should have attained nearly the utmost verge of human life; but that if, under the decree of Providence, great length of days was not granted to him, his friends have this satisfaction,