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## Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh

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### I. An Account of the Flora of that part of Hampshire called the New Forest

Henry Trimen Esq.

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From F. Naylor, Esq.—Specimen of *Hypericum undulatum*, from near Plymouth.

From T. B. Flower, Esq., Bath—Specimens of *Ononis reclinata*, collected in Jersey.

From Mr Roy, Aberdeen—Specimens of *Polytrichum sex-angulare*.

From Dr Lauder Lindsay—Specimens of *Grimmia ptychophylla* (Mitten), and *Sphæria Lindsayana* (Currey), new species, from Otago, New Zealand.

The following Donations to the Museum at the Royal Botanic Garden were noticed :—

From Mr John Sang—Portion of a Palm stem cast ashore between Akerhill Tower and Keiss Castle, Caithness, in 1864 ; also a seed of *Entada scandens*.

From Colonel Robert Maclagan—Specimens of the fruit of *Luffa*, from India.

The following Communications were read :—

I. *An Account of the Flora of that part of Hampshire called the New Forest.* By HENRY TRIMEN, Esq.

The author commenced by describing the situation, boundaries, extent, geology, scenery, and physical geography of the New Forest, and then proceeded to an examination of its botany. After noticing briefly the plants recorded by various authors, and remarking on the little attention which the district had received from botanists, he stated that the number of species known to inhabit it now amounted to 723, of which number he had himself collected 530. Having divided the flora of the Forest into three groups—the plants of the heaths and moors, those of the woods, and those of the streams and water-courses—Mr Trimen enumerated the more important species in each division, and showed specimens of many of the plants he mentioned. Amongst those were specimens of *Gladiolus illyricus* (Koch), a very handsome plant, only discovered as a native of this county in the New Forest a few years ago. The author then gave a sketch of the flora of the sea-coast, and of the cultivated parts of the district, and remarked on the few species found in those localities.

The flora was then considered as a whole, and shown to

contain many species of both the east and west of England, which are not usually found in the same district. The western type of vegetation was seen to prevail, however, and this was considered to be due to the damp humid climate. Numerous species, rare in the south of England, but common in North Britain, were mentioned, and their growth traced to the barren nature of the soil. After alluding to the influence of the geological formation of the Forest on its flora, the author concluded his paper by urging collecting botanists to compile complete and accurate lists of the plants of a district, in preference to hunting for varieties.

The paper was illustrated by a map of the Forest, and by numerous dried specimens of plants.

## II. *On new or rare Cryptogams from Otago, New Zealand.*

By W. LAUDER LINDSAY, M.D., F.R.S. Edin., &c.\*

### I. MUSCI.

*Grimmia (Rhacomitrium) ptychophylla* (Mitten), nov. sp.

*Botanical Diagnosis*.—Cæspitosa; ramis fastigiatis ramosis, densifoliis; foliis humidis, patentibus, siccis, appressis, strictis, profunde triplicatis, lanceolatis; dimidio inferiore; medio latiore; marginibus reflexis; nervo tenui, angusto in plicæ medio abscondito; sub apice acutato, breviter hyalino, evanido; cellulis basi ad angulos 2-3 oblongis inde ad apicem omnibus elongatis angustis; parietibus pellucidis, punctulatis, crenulatisque.

*Obs.*—The specimens of this very distinct species consist of stems taken from a tuft, and are divided into numerous short branches, all directed upwards. The lower parts are brown; the apices of the shoots yellowish brown. The hyaline acutate apex of the leaf is not observable until the leaf has been laid out under the microscope. In size and general appearance this species resembles *Rhacomitrium protensum*, var. 3, from Kerguelen's Land, of the "Antarctic

\* The following list includes genera and species which, though not new to science, are either new to Otago or New Zealand, or, from the rarity of their forms or otherwise, possess a special interest. The plants described or enumerated form part of the cryptogamic section of the Otago herbarium I formed in 1861. (*Vide* Proceedings of the Society for February 9, 1865.)