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### Some contributions to the natural history of the Rafflesia Patma

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distinctness. Concerning the latter, Fries himself, when writing about *S. ciliata*, says, "cilia foliorum plus minus distincta, sæpe decidua:" he also says, "capsula . . . matura nutans," but his own specimens show that this is too strong an expression; for although nodding whilst the fruit ripens, they become erect at the time of maturity when the capsule opens and the seeds are shed. *S. patula* (Jordan), Obs. sur Pl. Nouv. de la France, i. t. 3, is very similar to our plant, but differs by having numerous gland-tipped hairs on its sepals and the upper part of the peduncle. To it probably belongs the *S. ciliata* of Reichenbach, both of his 'Fl. Excurs.' and 'Icones Plant.' v. tab. 200. f. 4956, and *S. depressa*, f. 4957, unless the protruded capsule of the former should be considered as distinguishing it. Neither of them can be the *S. ciliata* of Fries, since they are both figured and described as having glandular-pilose peduncles and calyx. The following seems to be the distinctive character of our plant:—

*S. ciliata* (Fries!); stem elongated, branches diffuse or ascending, leaves linear awned, *outer sepals acute* longer than the petals and shorter than the capsule, apex of the peduncles reflexed after flowering ultimately erect.—Sven. Bot. t. 562, not *Reich.*—Glabrous; central stem elongated and fertile. Leaves with or without cilia at their base, tipped with a long bristle. Calyx of mature fruit adpressed to the capsule. Tubercles on the seeds blunt.—The figure quoted above from the 'Sven. Bot.' is far from good. It represents all the sepals as gradually narrowed into a long acute point. Not so the specimens published under Fries's own superintendence (Herb. Norm. Suec. i. 42), which resemble ours in this respect, having two shortly acute sepals and two only pointed or cuspidate ones.—C. C. B.

#### CAREX BRIZOIDES (LINN.).

I am indebted to Mr. William Stevens of the Drumlanrig gardens for specimens of this addition to the flora of Britain, which was discovered in July 1844 by Mr. W. MacIvor in Studley Wood, Yorkshire. Its specific character may be stated as follows:—*C. brizoides* (L.); spikelets several all simple contiguous sterile at their base alternate in a simple spike, stigmas 2, fruit lanceolate plano-convex bifid at the end serrated from near the base, nut (elliptical beaked and stalked?), glumes rather shorter than the fruit, *root creeping*, bracts short or none.—Reich. Icon. Fl. Germ. viii. tab. 207. fig. 548; Hoppe Car. Germ. in Sturm Deutschl. Fl. tab. a. 23.—Stem a foot high. Glumes acute, silvery brown. Leaves long, slender, equalling or overtopping the spikes. Rhizoma creeping extensively.—C. C. B.

#### *Some Contributions to the Natural History of the Rafflesia Patma.*

By M. ZOLLINGER, M. Bat. Soc. &c.

This flower, which still continues a problem in botany and a rarity in the collections of botanists, appears not to be so scarce as has hitherto been believed. I know that it occurs on the south coast of Java on the hills near the boundaries of the Residencies of Passarúwan

and Bezúkie ; I found it also on the mountain Watargan near Puger, on the south coast of the division of Bondowosso. The flower was brought to me from Jengawar in the same division. All these places lie in the lime formation, and I consider that the *Rafflesia* is an exanthem of the roots of *Cissus scariosa*, Bl., and may occur wherever its mother-plant grows. It is still uncertain whether my specimens belong to the species which Blume found on Nusa Kambangan. Blume's specimens must have been larger. The largest I possess do not attain so much as a foot in diameter, and mostly only  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{8}$  f. This plant probably occurs also on Nusa Baron, and, it is likely, along the lime hills which nearly surround the whole south coast of Java. I have often seen on one root of *Cissus scariosa* three or more *Rafflesia*. It does not occur on the sand of the coast, as many believe and assert, but mostly in the ravines and humid hollows of the lime rocks. The Javanese of Eastern Java name this flower *Pidh mo*, or *Pidehmó*. It is scarcely possible to conceive what idolatrous notions are entertained concerning the flower by this people. An ordinary man would not be able to find it until after he has fasted and prayed or been sanctified when he goes to search for it. The flower is prepared with other articles as a medicine which is used after delivery by women, in order completely to purify the matrix. It is also amongst the most reputed aphrodisiacs of the Javanese, although only for women of the higher classes. Common women would be taken sick were they to use this medicine. It is further said, that if a woman of the people has recourse to it, and afterwards going out on foot treads on some dirty place, she will ever after forfeit the inclination of all men. The Javanese reckon the *Rafflesia* properly amongst the fungi, an opinion which is partly received in science ; at least in so far, that we have placed the plant in the natural system as a link between the sponges and the higher plants.—*From the Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia for Aug. 1847.*

*On the Gamboge of the Tenasserim Provinces.*

By the Rev. F. MASON, A.M.

In conversation with a distinguished medical officer, and member of the Asiatic Society, I found that he was not at all aware that the Tenasserim Provinces produce Gamboge. It has therefore occurred to me that a brief notice of the Gamboge of these provinces might not be unacceptable to the readers of the Journal, and would contribute its influence to draw attention to a most interesting portion of the British provinces in the East ; one that is exceeded by few in the richness and variety of its natural productions.

Three works in my possession describe Gamboge each as the product of a different tree ; a fourth represents all to be wrong, and a fifth suggests a different plant still. One refers it to *Cambogia gutta*, a plant which, as described by Linnæus, has probably no existence. He described a Ceylon plant ; and it is now quite evident, says Dr. Wight, " that the character of the flower and ovary is taken from one specimen, and that of the fruit from a different one, owing to