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V. Notice of *Sicana odorifera*, Naudin (*Cucurbita odorifera*), Velloso, Flor. Flum

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one of the wild flowers of England, brought, many years ago, by the Duke of Kent, and now widely spread through the woods and along railway banks and roadsides. *Delphinium exaltatum* is from the Youcon and Clear Water River, although in the States its distribution is decidedly southern. *D. azureum* is also from the Youcon. *D. Consolida*, an introduced European plant, is found at Prescott, and *D. Ajacis*, an excluded species, is not permanently naturalised. *Aconitum delphinifolium* is kept distinct from *A. Napellus*, of which Dr Regel describes no fewer than forty varieties and forms, all named and classified. *A. semigaleatum*, not previously noticed as American, is considered a distinct variety of *A. delphinifolium*; the specimens of both are from Governor M'Tavish. *A. Napellus* is a naturalised plant. *Cimicifuga* is confined to Cayuga, in the extreme south-west of Canada, where it was found by Dr Philip W. MacLagan. *Actæa rubra* is widely spread throughout the whole dominion, but *A. alba* is south-western. *Hydrastis canadensis* is confined to Ontario, and *Adonis* is excluded, as the specimens sent to Hooker from Labrador, thirty or forty years ago, had no doubt sprung from seeds dropped there by accident, and the plant has not been heard of or seen since.

V. *Notice of Sicana odorifera*, Naudin (*Cucurbita odorifera*), Velloso, Flor. Flum. By Senhor JOAQUIM CORREA DE MELLO, Camprinas, Province of St Paulo, Brazil. Communicated by DANIEL HANBURY, Esq.

The fruits of this plant (*Cucurbita odorifera*, Velloso, Flor. Flum.), as well as the plant itself, are commonly known by the name of Coroá or Curuá. Their odour is very agreeable, and excites a longing to eat them. The taste is sweet, and at first not unpleasant, but it soon nauseates, and to me is intolerable. Notwithstanding this, there are some persons, but not many, who eat them. The fruits may be kept for four or five months without decaying, and I therefore send them without preparation, hoping they may arrive in good condition. I have never seen *Sicana odorifera* truly wild, but always in cultivation, and I am uncertain in what province of Brazil it is indigenous.

There are two plants of it in my garden, with stems about an inch in diameter, which are seedlings of last year, and which this year have flowered and borne fruit, and are still growing. A neighbour of mine, who also cultivates this plant, informs me that it lasts for many years. The description of *Sicana* as "*herba annua gracilis*" . . . given in the "*Genera Plantarum*" of Bentham and Hooker (i. 429), is not, therefore, very correct, at least for the plant as seen in this province.

A specimen of the fruit was exhibited and presented to the Museum.

VI. *Hints for Collecting Cryptogamia*. By Professor DICKIE.

Mosses and *Lichens* grow on the ground or on trunks of trees, and on rocks; many of the former are found also in streams and marshes; shady damp places are generally most productive of both. Specimens of such require little preparation for carriage; spread them out to dry in the *shade*, and afterwards pack loosely in paper, they can be finally prepared any time after; or they may be dried at once under pressure, between absorbent paper, like flowering plants. Many *Lichens* on trees and rocks are mere crusts of different colours, and can alone be got by slicing a piece of bark or chipping the rock.

Sea-Weeds are of various colours—olive, red, purple, or green. They may be found between tide-marks attached to rocks and stones, or rooting in sand, &c. Those in deeper water are got by dredging, and many are cast up after storms. Small kinds grow on the larger, and some, being like fleshy crusts, on stones, shells, &c., must be pared off by means of a knife.

The more delicate kinds, after gentle washing, may be floated in a vessel of fresh water, upon thick writing or drawing paper, then gently lift out paper and plant together, allow some time to drip, then place on the sea-weed clean linen or cotton cloth, and on it a sheet of absorbent paper, and submit to moderate pressure,—many adhere to paper but not to cloth,—then change the cloth and absorbent paper till the specimens are dry. Large coarser kinds may