

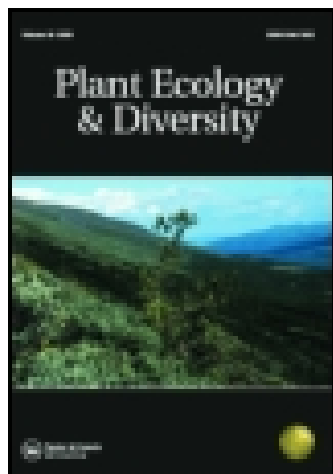
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### II. Notice of Esparto

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Southampton; *Specularia hybrida* (DC.), Hursley; *Pulmonaria angustifolia* (L.), Quarr Abbey, I. W.; *Atropa Belladonna* (L.), Netley; *Lycium barbarum* (L.), near Rhyde, naturalised; *Linaria repens* (Ait.), Chandlersford; *L. Sepium* (Allm.), Chandlersford, with *L. repens* and *L. vulgaris*; *L. speciosa* (Bromf.), near Portsmouth; *Calamintha sylvatica* (Bromf.), Apes Downs, I. W.; *Galeopsis Ladanum*, v. *canescens* (Schul.), Southampton; *Polygonatum multiflorum* (All.), Netley; *Acorus Calamus* (L.), Winchester; *Spartina alterniflora* (Lois), mud-flats on Itchen, Southampton. On a former visit (1862) to the island, Mr Naylor collected *Papaver hybridum* (L.), Undercliff, I. W.; *Matthiola incana* (Br.), Freshwater; *Vicia gracilis* (Lois), Bembridge; *Lepigonum rupestre* (Kindb.), Luccombe; *Bupleurum tenuissimum* (L.), Bembridge; *Erythraea littoralis* (Fr.), Alum Bay; *Melampyrum arvense* (L.), Undercliff; *Spartina stricta* (Roth), Yarmouth; and *Lastrea Thelypteris* (Presl), Freshwater Gate.

The following Shoreham and Surrey plants close the list:—*Trifolium stellatum* (L.), Shoreham; *Geranium Robertianum*, v. *purpureum*, Shoreham; *Suaeda fruticosa* (Forsk.), Shoreham; *Buxus sempervirens* (L.), Box Hill; *Cuscuta Trifolii* (Bab.), Shere, not before recorded in that locality; *Phyteuma orbiculare* (L.), Dorking; *Impatiens fulva* (Nutt.), Albury; *Cephalanthera grandiflora* (Bab.), Shere.

## II. Notice of Esparto. By the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST (CHARLES LAWSON, Esq.)

The Lord Provost communicated the following letter from Mr Hardy Hislop, of Lisbon:—"I have made the inquiry you wished relative to the 'Esparto,' and find there are thousands of tons annually shipped from Alicante and Carthagea. In Alicante I found three large vessels loading the goods for England, and discovered that last year 4000 tons were shipped to the following countries:—England, France, Belgium, and Sweden. Its use is for the manufacture of paper. The fibres are used in the Scotch carpet trade, Kidderminster, and Brussels. The grass is grown in a dry soil. It is not grown from seed; when

planted it spreads rapidly. It is not cut, but torn up by the roots—a very easy process when ripe. The fibre makes a paper with a fine surface, and strong. A process is employed for extracting the glue-like matter in it, leaving the fibre clean and fit for use after drying.” The Lord Provost suggested that the plant might perhaps be cultivated in some of the milder parts of this country.

Dr Balfour remarked that the plant was *Macrochloa tenacissima*, and grew on sandy shores like bent. The common name of the grass is derived from the Latin *Spartum*, the appellation given to a plant from which the ancients made bands to tie vines, and ropes for ships. In some of the Latin dictionaries it is said to be a kind of broom, but this is a mistake. The old botanical name of broom, *Spartium*, seems to be derived from this.

In Livy we find an allusion to Spart, as used for ships.\*

In Greek, the word *σπαρτον* is applied to *funiculus sparteus*.†

Specimens of Spart in various states were exhibited.

### III. *Note on the discovery of Neotinea intacta (Reich.) in Ireland.* By A. G. MORE, Esq., F.L.S.

Mr More remarks: My sister and myself first noticed *Neotinea intacta* early in the month of April (1864). It attracted our attention as appearing above ground at a singularly early date, in a locality where we knew that *Orchis mascula* was the only early orchis, and *Orchis mascula* of course it could not be.

My sister following up this clue after I had left Castle Taylor, collected and dried several specimens, remarking that the little orchis was something she had never seen before. After a great deal of trouble, my friend Dr Moore discovered its name, which was soon confirmed by Reichenbach himself; and we thus had the great pleasure of adding one more to the list of southern plants which grow in Ireland without reaching Britain proper. It is hard to say

\* Livy says—“Vis magna Sparti ad rem nauticam congesta ab Asdrubale”—xxii. 20.

† Thus, in the Iliad, we meet with, *Καὶ δὴ δούρα σίσσησε νεῶν, καὶ σπάρατα λίλυνται*—ii. 135.