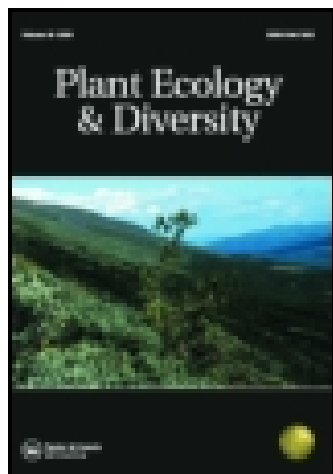


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### III. On the Flowering of a Variety of *Crataegus* *Oxyacantha* in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden

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was one-fifth of the whole, and after three months one-fourteenth.

4. *Ranunculaceæ*, *Malvaceæ*, *Convolvulaceæ*, seem least capable of resisting the action of sea-water.

5. *Chenopodiaceæ*, *Polygonaceæ*, *Cruciferae*, *Gramineæ*, and *Leguminosæ* resisted best prolonged immersion in the sea.

6. A hard perisperm and the presence of albumen seem to be favourable for the preservation of seeds.

7. The transport of seeds by currents seems to have had an insignificant share in the diffusion of species over countries separated by the sea ; and if we consider the number of disjoined species which could only have been diffused in this way, the idea of numerous specific centres of creation acquires great probability.

### III. *On the Flowering of a Variety of Cratægus Oxyacantha in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.* By Mr JAMES M'NAB.

During the past winter my attention was directed to a tree of the double-white flowering *Cratægus Oxyacantha*, which retained most of its leaves in a green state during the whole winter, some of them still remaining on the tree even to this day (12th May 1859). Early in February this tree presented a greenish appearance before all the other thorns, contrasting singularly with the old dark-green leaves. Owing to the comparatively mild weather we were then experiencing, the progress of leaf-development was rapid. On the 14th of April the tree was covered with flower-buds, having blossoms expanded on one small branch. At the present time (May 12) the tree is covered with flowers, but, strange to say, instead of being double, all are single, none of the blooms possessing more than five petals, and having the stamens and pistils perfectly normal. The tree has been grafted, and has been growing in its present situation for upwards of thirty years. It is eighteen feet high, having a circular-shaped head fifty-four feet in circumference, with a stem thirty inches round. This thorn has flowered regularly during the month of June for many years ; last year the flowering was particularly abundant, and remained long on the tree. Neither the leaves nor flowers are as large as usual, and the general health of the tree does not seem changed.