A Color-form of Beech-drops.—The form of *Epifagus virginiana* (L.) Bart. in which the whole plant instead of its usual brown-madder shade is pale straw-colored to yellowish has been described by C. A. Weatherby as f. *pallida*, and is occasional in the White Mountain region, e. g., in Randolph and Gorham, N. H. For another even more striking color-variant, however, in which the whole plant (except the corolla) has a black-purple hue, there seems to be as yet no designation, and for convenience of reference it may be characterized as

Epifagus virginiana (L.) Bart., f. **atropurpurea** n. f., caulibus et squamis calycibusque atropurpureis.—Maine, Bickford Trail, Stow, 30 Aug., 1951 (*Pease*); New Hampshire, Randolph, 8 Sept., 1920 (*Pease 18087*, type) in N. E. B. C.

With these color-forms of *Epifagus* may be compared several in *Corallorhiza*, discussed by H. H. Bartlett in Rhodora, 24 (1922), 145–148, and by M. L. Fernald in Rhodora, 48 (1946), 197.—Arthur Stanley Pease, Randolph, N. H.

Stages in the Evolution of Plant Species[1]:—In a series of essays first presented as lectures under the Messenger Foundation at Cornell University, Clausen has brought together material and points of view largely derived from his own work on *Viola* and that of his research group at the Carnegie Institution of Washington on a number of plants, particularly of the Compositae. A fair proportion of the material covered in the book has appeared in print elsewhere, but there are a number of new illustrations, maps, charts, and diagrams. Furthermore, the subject matter has been considered in a logical sequence and from several points of view, although cytogenetics and experimental taxonomy have dominated the author's thinking. The following chapter headings give an idea of the book's contents: the evolution of our concepts of speciation; the local population as the basic evolutionary unit; the evolution of ecological races; the genetic systems of ecological races and morphological subspecies; the evolution of interspecific barriers; the evolution of groups of species; the physiologic-genetic species concept and the dynamics of the evolution of species and genera. The last chapter is significant because it represents an attempt to shift some of the emphasis from the negative aspects of the species problem to the positive. This is a trend that is long overdue and it is to be hoped that further information will be forthcoming from the laboratory of Dr. Clausen. On the whole, scientists interested in the genetic phases of speciation have in recent years been overly occupied with studies concerning barriers between species rather than with the nature of the species themselves.—R. C. Rollins.

[1] *Stages in the Evolution of Plant Species.* By Jens Clausen. viii + 206. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1951. $3.50.

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