

BRANCHED BROOM-RAPE UPON TOMATO.—During the past season a single tomato plant in my experiment grounds was infested with the *Orbanche ramosa* L. It fastened itself upon one of the main roots of the tomato plant, and produced a base, below ground, an inch in diameter, from which a cluster of branching stems arose bearing the racemes of bluish yellow flowers in early July. While New Jersey has a record for *Orbanche minor* J. E. S. upon clover, *Conopholis Americana* (L.f.) and the old *Aphyllon uniflorum* (L.) and *Epiphegus Virginiana* (L.), this branched Broom-rape seems new to the State and, so far as it is determined, for any region north of Kentucky, where it is destructive to hemp and tobacco. The writer would like to hear whether this European parasite has previously occurred in New England or the Middle States. It is interesting that the original Linnaean name stands unchanged, a rarity in this little group of root parasites.—BYRON D. HALSTED, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

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AN UNARMED CONNECTICUT BLACKBERRY.—Dr. C. B. Graves has brought me for examination a suite of specimens collected from a large patch of slender blackberry bushes in a damp thicket at Groton, Connecticut. The bushes, which have been carefully studied by Dr. Graves, differ from the common high blackberry of the region, *Rubus nigrobaccus*, Bailey, in their more slender usually prickless canes, and the very elongate loose racemes. In the ordinary prickly form of *R. nigrobaccus* the inflorescences are somewhat elongate, but even in their most mature condition, at fruiting time, they are only 1 or 2 dm. long. In Dr. Graves' plant, however, the racemes are 2.5 to 3 dm. long. But the fruit of the plant is essentially like that of *R. nigrobaccus*, though drier than in the best forms of the species; and the pubescence of the two plants is essentially the same. The occurrence of occasional fine prickles on the midrib of the leaves, and their very rare occurrence on the canes further show that the Groton plant is an extreme variation of *R. nigrobaccus*, with which I take pleasure in associating the name of its discoverer. This variety may be known as

RUBUS NIGROBACCUS, Bailey, var. **Gravesii**. Canes slender, essentially without prickles; young branches and inflorescence densely glandular-villous: leaves as in the species, but less prickly or prickless: racemes leafy below, 2.5 to 3 dm. long; the pedicels



Halsted, Byron D. 1901. "Branched Broom-rape upon Tomato." *Rhodora* 3, 295–295.

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