

outstanding variation. Very little meiotic abnormality was encountered in the population, although the occurrence of low pollen fertilities in some of the plants suggests that cryptic structural differences in the chromosomes exist. Speciation has apparently proceeded without the development of the sterility barrier, but the external barriers which ordinarily separate them have in this instance been partially broken down by the influence of man. However, even under these conditions there is little indication of the amalgamation of the species in this population.

— UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, AND UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW MEXICO, ALBUQUERQUE.

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WALLPAPER CLEANER IN THE HERBARIUM. — In a well-kept herbarium, specimen sheets are handled in such a manner that they do not become excessively dirty. However, where collections have been neglected for long periods or are housed in poor cases they may become badly soiled by dust and smoke. This was the case with a rather large number of sheets in the Herbarium of Yale University, most of which had come as gifts and were dirty when received. Specimens of little value may be discarded but valuable collections should, of course, be preserved even though soiled. If the plant is not glued too tightly it may sometimes be removed and mounted on a clean sheet. However, where this is impossible without severe breakage some other method must be sought.



Since most of the soiled areas are usually near the margin of the sheet, it might be feasible to remove it with an art gum eraser. Actually, this tends to smudge and leaves the paper streaked rather than clean.

The idea of using wallpaper cleaner of the pliable putty type occurred to me, and this was tried with very good results. This material can be purchased from most paint or hardware stores and comes in vacuum sealed tins. Several different brands have been used and all proved to be equally satisfactory. When the can is opened, the unused cleaner may be stored in screw-top glass jars to prevent it from drying out. For cleaning a specimen, we use a small portion (about the size of a golf ball) and this is also stored in a screw-top jar. In use, the cleaner must be kneaded thoroughly to keep it pliable and to work the dirt in. It gives satisfactory results until the ball is quite black, when it is discarded for a fresh piece. If there is dust close to the specimen, the cleaner may be rolled into a small cylinder and used like a pencil. Care must be exercised, however, since hairs, flower parts, etc., will adhere to the cleaner and thus be removed.

This method has been used in the Yale Herbarium for the past six months with excellent results. The idea is offered here in the hope that it may be found equally useful by others who have similar problems. — JOHN EBINGER, OSBORN BOTANICAL LABORATORY, YALE UNIVERSITY.

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RHODODENDRON MAXIMUM IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.<sup>1</sup> — The valuable paper by the late C. H. Knowlton (5) on *Rhododendron maximum in New England* unfortunately contains some errors and omissions for New Hampshire. Recently Iltis (4) has quite understandably accepted Knowlton's data and has included his stations on a map covering the range of the species.

In the past few years we have tried to visit all recorded New Hampshire colonies of *R. maximum* and thus have become aware of the faults in recent publications. But before reporting on these, we have wanted to check all possible clues to new stations.

<sup>1</sup> Published with the approval of the Director of the New Hampshire Agriculture Experiment Station as Scientific Contribution No. 232.



Ebinger, John E. 1959. "Wallpaper Cleaner in the Herbarium." *Rhodora* 61, 147–148.

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