

who took it up, both giving the derivation from "*mesembria*," mid-day, alluding to the time the blossoms open. But both Breyne and Dillenius about half the time wrote *Mesembryanthemum*. Linnæus, adopting the latter, became consistent by making a wrong and far-fetched derivation to match the orthography. Among systematic writers Sprengel almost alone keeps to the correct orthography, and Webb insists on it. The younger Breyne, in his edition of his father's Prodrômus, has a note about it (p. 81). He mentions an excuse for changing the orthography, namely, that some species do not open the blossom at noontide, and intimates that Linnæus' derivation from the insertion of the corolla around the middle of the germ, is open to the same objection. If heeded, that kind of objection would be fatal to very many generic names.—A. GRAY.

POTAMOGETON VASEYI, ROBBINS.—This species has usually been considered the rarest of all our pond-weeds. The fructiferous form with floating leaves, perhaps, is so, having been detected, so far as I am aware, in only two localities in the United States and one in Canada. The submerged form, however, promises to be much more abundant. In company with Mr. Edwin Faxon, of Jamaica Plain, Mass., I dredged for it this summer in Lake Quinsigamond, where a few specimens, floating on the surface, were obtained some years ago by Dr. Robbins.

This sheet of water resembles one of the lochs of Scotland, lying in a deep hollow among low hills. It is almost five miles long by half a mile broad. The water deepens abruptly from the shore, having on the outer edge of the bed a belt of stones and pebbles. Within this the bottom seems to be composed of silt washed from the surrounding hills. In this silt, at a depth varying from six to twelve feet, throughout the lake, we found *P. Vaseyi* growing in great profusion. It was mixed with *P. Spirillus*, *P. pusillus* and *Naias flexilis*.

This form of the species has filiform stems, 6–18 inches high, sending up long branches from the base and shorter ones above; leaves scattered, setaceous, 1-nerved, 1–3 inches in length, and tapering to a long needle-like point; stipules delicate, free, acute, 3–6 lines in length and rather persistent. The plant is propagated exclusively by gemmae, which are much like those of *P. gemmiparus*, but usually smaller and more delicate.

Our find shows the importance, when searching for aquatics, of using a dredging rake. Plants as slender as this cannot be seen from the surface unless the water is extraordinarily clear, nor even then well enough to determine what they are. I have found myself repeatedly deceived in fishing up something dimly discerned on the bottom which proved to be very different from what I expected. Had we trusted to eyesight alone in this case, we should never have suspected what riches lay beneath the water.—THOMAS MORONG, *Ashland, Mass.*

BAPTISIA CALYCOSA, W. M. CANBY.—I have lately collected fine



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