

menoptera has been accumulating for at least thirty years, was a favourite part of Dr. Leach's collection, and has been made over a wide and variegated country; while Mr. Barnston's was formed in three months, on one spot, and under almost unheard-of disadvantages, counterbalanced, however, by an enthusiasm not easily deterred by difficulties.

	British Collection in British Museum.	Collected at Martin's Falls.
Cimbicidæ . . . . .	10 . . . . .	4
Tenthredinidæ . . . . .	157 . . . . .	76
Siricidæ, &c. . . . .	7 . . . . .	2
Ichneumonidæ . . . . .	200 . . . . .	47
Chalcididæ . . . . .	? . . . . .	?
Chrysididæ . . . . .	22 . . . . .	1
Formicidæ . . . . .	11 . . . . .	7
Mutillidæ . . . . .	5 . . . . .	0
Sapygidæ . . . . .	2 . . . . .	0
Pompilidæ, &c. . . . .	38 . . . . .	2
Crabronidæ . . . . .	57 . . . . .	16
Vespidæ . . . . .	17 . . . . .	4
Apidæ . . . . .	170 . . . . .	33

"A striking proof that the time has not yet come to reason correctly on the distribution of Hymenopterous insects,—at least in British North America."—*Arctic Searching Expedition, by Sir John Richardson*, vol. ii. p. 354.

Mr. Adam White desires to add, that the above paragraphs could be extended to other branches of articulated animals. When men like Kroyer go to Spitzbergen and Iceland, and Höllboll to Greenland, fish and crustacea "new to science" are found and described by them. Should his friend Harry Goodsir of the Erebus return to England, or should Captains Penny, Stewart, Lieutenant Osborne and MacClintock discover his papers; the scientific world will find that animal life is not so *rare* in these arctic seas as is generally supposed by many clever and enterprising men, whose researches do not *lie* in the direction of natural history. Captains Penny and Stewart and Dr. Sutherland saw walruses, narwhals, polar bears and seals in Wellington Channel. These creatures do not all *live* on one another. It is well to remember the rough but true lines so well known to every naturalist—

"Large fleas and little fleas have smaller fleas to bite 'em;  
The smaller fleas have lesser fleas, and so *ad infinitum*."

#### ACANTHUS MOLLIS (LINN.).

In the course of last summer I received from the Rev. John P. Mayne of St. Agnes, Isles of Scilly, some flowers of *Acanthus mollis*, with a request to be informed of its name, as he found it growing wild in that island. In answer to questions addressed to him, he has since informed me that it grows in a spot separated from some houses by a narrow field, on the south side of a hedge, upon some heaps of stones collected there on the destruction of an old lane that formerly passed the spot. An old man who rents the field



tells him that he remembers having taken notice of the plant fifty years since; another man vouches for forty years.

The plant occupies a space of about 20 feet by 5 or 6, and is not found in any other part of St. Agnes, nor, as far as Mr. Mayne knows, in any of the other islands. Twenty years since St. Agnes, as he has ascertained, could not boast of even one garden, and therefore floral culture could hardly have caused its introduction more than fifty years since, when potatoes and rye and an occasional cabbage were the *only things* grown in the island by people who lived wholly by the sea.

Strange birds often visit the Isles during the south-easterly winds, and may, as Mr. Mayne justly suspects, have brought seeds from the continent. He adds, that "a brother clergyman, living at Marazion, near Penzance, has some plants of it growing in his garden. He has never seen the plant elsewhere, and is quite at a loss to account for their presence." Can this be Dr. Penneck's station noticed in 'Cybele Britannica,' vol. ii. p. 232?

I leave it to other botanists to discuss the curious question of the rank of this plant as "alien" or "colonist." I have no authority for supposing that it is found upon the Atlantic coasts of France, but it inhabits damp and stony or rocky places in the south of that country. The peculiarly mild winter climate of Scilly is not unfavourable to it, and it may therefore be an old if not "the oldest inhabitant."—CHARLES C. BABINGTON.

#### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR OCT. 1851.

*Chiswick*.—October 1. Densely clouded: rain. 2. Overcast: showery. 3. Fine: showery. 4. Rain: very fine: clear. 5. Fine. 6. Rain early: very fine. 7. Rain. 8. Very fine. 9. Foggy: drizzly: rain. 10. Cloudy. 11. Foggy: very fine. 12. Cloudy. 13. Very fine: rain. 14. Very fine. 15. Constant rain. 16, 17. Clear: very fine. 18. Fine: rain: cloudy. 19. Fine: overcast. 20. Slight drizzle: uniformly overcast. 21. Foggy: fine. 22. Slight fog: hazy. 23, 24, 25. Overcast. 26. Fine. 27. Overcast: exceedingly fine. 28. Overcast: rain. 29. Fine: clear. 30. Clear: fine. 31. Very fine.

Mean temperature of the month ..... 51°·25

Mean temperature of Oct. 1850 ..... 44 ·32

Mean temperature of Oct. for the last twenty-five years . 50 ·50

Average amount of rain in Oct. .... 2·66 inches.

*Boston*.—Oct. 1. Fine: rain P.M. 2. Fine. 3. Rain: rain A.M. and P.M. 4. Cloudy: rain A.M. 5. Fine: rain A.M. and P.M. 6. Fine: rain early A.M. 7, 8. Fine. 9. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 10, 11. Fine. 12. Cloudy. 13. Cloudy: rain P.M. 14. Fine. 15. Cloudy: rain early A.M. and P.M. 16—19. Fine. 20. Cloudy. 21. Rain. 22. Fine. 23—25. Cloudy. 26, 27. Fine. 28. Cloudy: rain P.M. 29. Fine: rain P.M. 30. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 31. Fine: rain P.M.

*Sandwich Manse, Orkney*.—Oct. 1. Bright: clear: aurora. 2. Rain: clear: aurora. 3. Bright: clear. 4. Rain: clear: large lunar halo. 5. Bright: showers. 6. Cloudy: showers. 7. Cloudy: rain. 8. Bright: lunar rainbow. 9. Bright: showers. 10. Showers: cloudy. 11. Clear: showers. 12. Cloudy: damp. 13. Cloudy: showers. 14. Bright: showers. 15. Rain: bright: showers. 16. Bright: clear. 17. Showers: drops. 18. Showers: rain: aurora. 19. Clear: showers: aurora. 20. Bright: cloudy: rain. 21. Bright: cloudy. 22. Bright: clear: aurora. 23. Damp: drops: aurora. 24. Fog: fine. 25. Fog: rain. 26. Drizzle: rain. 27. Fine: cloudy: rain. 28. Rain: showers: aurora. 29. Sleet-showers: aurora. 30. Cloudy. 31. Rain: showers: aurora.





Babington, Charles Cardale. 1851. "Acanthus mollis (Linn.)." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 8, 505–506.

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