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ART. VI.—*Florula Lexingtoniensis, secundum florendi aetatem digesta; or a descriptive Catalogue of the Phanogamous plants indigenous to this portion of Kentucky; arranged in the order of their periods of flowering.* By CHARLES WILKINS SHORT, M. D. Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Botany in Transylvania University.

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FASCICULUS II.

For April.

23. GENUS. ACER L. Maple.

(Deriv. Latin; *acer*, sharp; pikes and lances having formerly been made of the wood.)

Class 3th. OCTANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Flowers mostly polygamous. Calyx about 5—cleft. Petals 5, or none. Samaras 2, united at base, 1 seeded, winged.

Species 1st. ACER SACCHARINUM. Sugar Maple.

Sp. Ch. Leaves palmately 5—lobed, subcordate at base, acuminate, glaucous beneath; peduncles corymbose, nodding.

Obs. The Sugar tree, as it is here universally called, is one of the most common of our forest trees, and perhaps in this particular locality, it attains its greatest altitude. As it does not materially interfere with the growth of grasses beneath it, it is often reserved in clearing ground, particularly in situations intended for pasture or meadows. It here forms the densest shade, and in autumn constitutes a prominent feature in the landscape, by the bright orange and red colours assumed by its leaves. Its wood is preferred to almost any other for fuel, and large quantities of sugar are annually made from the sap. Flowers about the first of April: seed ripen in midsummer.

Species 2d. ACER NEGUNDO. Box Elder.

Sp. Ch. Leaves pinnate and ternate, unequally serrate; flowers dioicous.

Obs. Not so common as the preceding, being more restricted to the borders of water courses. It is in every point of view less valuable than the Sugar tree, although the sap is occasionally procured in common with that of the former, in the making of sugar. Flowers at the same time.

Species 3d. ACER DASYCARPUM.

White Maple.

Sp. Ch. *Leaves* palmate, 5—lobed, acuminate, serrate, pubescent underneath, and almost white; *flowers* in clustered umbels; *germs* tomentose.

Obs. This tree, which in its general habit resembles the Sugar Maple, is however easily distinguished from it by the lighter and smoother colour of the bark, and the singular downy whiteness of the leaves. It attains as large a size and is valuable as fuel and for some of the mechanic arts. Sugar is also made from its sap, but it is now rarely met with in this neighbourhood.

24. GENUS. VERONICA. L. *Speedwell.*

(*Deriv.* Probably a corruption of *Vetonica*, or *Betonica*, Betony.)

Class 2d. DIANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. *Calyx* 4—parted. *Corolla* rotate, 4—lobed, unequal, the lower segment narrower. *Capsule* 2-celled, obcordate; *seeds* few.

Species 1st. VERONICA PERIGRINA.

Neckweed.

Sp. Ch. *Flowers* solitary sessile; *leaves* oblong, rather obtuse, toothed and entire; *stem* erect.

Obs. Stem erect or partially procumbent, round, smooth, frequently without branches, 3 inches high. The lowest leaves opposite, sparsely toothed; the upper alternate, linear-lanceolate, nearly entire. Flowers axillary, solitary, nearly sessile. Corolla small, white and, like both the following, very caducous. Capsule inversely heart-shaped and larger than either of the succeeding species.—The plant has had some reputation in scrofula, hence the name of Neckweed. Flowers middle of March and after. Abundant in gardens and cultivated fields.

Species 2d. VERONICA SERPYLLIFOLIA.

Speedwell.

Sp. Ch. *Raceme* terminal, somewhat spiked; *leaves* ovate glabrous, crenate.

Obs. A small plant common in grass lots, and scarcely distinguishable except when in bloom; stem decumbent, putting forth radicles; lower leaves roundish, ovate, smooth; flowers sky-

blue with darker stripes, larger than in the preceding species, and borne on the summit of the stem: whole plant does not exceed 6 inches in height, frequently less. Flowers from 1st of April to the last of that month, and occasionally throughout the season.

Species 3d. VERONICA AGRESTIS.

Germander.

Sp. Ch. Flowers solitary, and with the cordate leaves nearly sessile; stem rough, hairy.

Obs. This species is readily distinguished from either of the preceding by its more hispid appearance, and its more diffused and branching habit. The flower is also smaller and of a deeper blue than the preceding. The leaves are mostly opposite, cordate, ovate, notched, strongly veined particularly on the lower surface, and very pubescent. Cultivated fields and pastures common: flowering rather later than the last, 5th—10th of April.

25. GENUS. CARPINUS. L.

(*Deriv.* Celtic, *Car*, wood, and *pin*, head; i. e. wood suitable for making yokes for cattle. *De Theis* by *Darl.*)

Class 21st. MONOECIA.—*Order.* POLYANDRIA.

Gen. Ch. MASC. Scales of the calyx ciliated. *Stamina* about 10. FEM. Calyx scales 2-flowered. *Corolla* trifid. *Nut* ovate, sulcate.

Species 1st. CARPINUS AMERICANA.

Iron-wood.

Sp. Ch. Leaves oblong-ovate, acuminate, unequally serrate; *strobile* with 3—parted scales, the middle segment oblique, toothed on one side.

Obs. The Iron-wood, by which name this tree is here always called, is so well known as to require no description. In other portions of the union it is called Hornbeam. It is found throughout this state among other forest trees and is perhaps especially abundant in the country about Lexington, growing generally to the height of 30 or 40 feet.—The wood is possessed of great hardness and strength, but is not applied to many useful purposes. Flowers beginning of April.

Syn. C. Caroliniana. *Walt.*

26. GENUS. OSTRYA. *Micheli.*

(*Deriv.* *Ostreon.* Greek, a shell or scale; from the resemblance of its capsules. *De Theis.*)

Class 21st. *MONOECIA*. Order, *POLYANDRIA*.

Gen. Ch. *Ament* imbricated. *MASC.* *Calyx* consisting of scales. *Filament* of the stamina ramose, *FEM.* *Ament* naked. *Capsules* inflated, imbricated at the base, 1-seeded.

Species 1st. *OSTRYA VIRGINICA.* *Hop-hornbeam.*

Sp. Ch. *Leaves* ovate-oblong, cordate at the base, acuminate, unequally serrate; *strobile* oblong-ovate, erect? buds acute.

Obs. This small tree which is also called Ironwood in the Northern and Eastern States, is readily distinguished from the former by its somewhat shaggy bark and differently formed strobiles, or seed vessels: these in the present tree being so similar to those of the garden hop as to have given it the appropriate name of Hop-hornbeam. It is likewise frequent in this locality being found in company with the preceding. Its wood is also hard and strong; but the size of the tree being inconsiderable, it is susceptible of no very useful application. Flowers about the 1st of April.

Syn. *Carpinus Ostrya Mich.*

27. GENUS. *PULMONARIA*. L.

(*Deriv.* *Pulmones* the lungs, from its former reputation in diseases of these organs.)

Class 5th. *PENTANDRIA*. Order, *MONOGYNIA*.

Gen. Ch. *Calyx* prismatic 5—angled, 5—toothed: *Corolla* funnel-formed, border 5—lobed; throat pervious.

Species 1st. *PULMONARIA VIRGINICA.* *American Cowslip.*

Sp. Ch. Smooth; *stem* erect; *calyx* much shorter than the tube of the corolla; *radical leaves* ob-ovate, oblong, obtuse; *stem leaves* narrower.

Obs. This very showy plant, so common in most parts of the Union, is comparatively rare in this immediate vicinity, being only occasionally met with on the alluvion banks of Elkhorn and Kentucky river. Stem 12–15 inches high with numerous broad, smooth, spatulate leaves issuing from the root, and becoming narrower on the stem. Flowers numerous in a terminal, pendulous raceme; their colour varying from pale rose, through violet to blue. April 1st to 15th.

28. GENUS. DELPHINIUM. L.

(*Deriv.* *Delphinion* of the ancient Greeks, from some fancied resemblance of its nectary, to the Dolphin. *Smith.*)

Class 12th. POLYANDRIA—Order, TRIGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx none. Petals 5. Nectarium 2—cleft, base extending into a hollow spur. Capsules 1—3.

Species 1st. DELPHINIUM TRICORNE. *Wild Larkspur.*

Sp. Ch. Caulis simple. Leaves 5—parted many-cleft with the segments linear; raceme straight; nectary shorter than the corolla; capsules 3, arched, expanding from the base.

Obs. The striking similarity of this plant, to the common Larkspur of the gardens at once points it out to the novice. Stem hollow, large at the base, tapering quickly to a point at the summit; rarely more than a foot high. Flowers varying in colour from dark blue to light blue, purple pink and white, are succeeded by three, horn-shaped capsules, whence the specific name. Found on creek sides, particularly preferring rocky precipices. 1st to the 10th of April.

This is one of the plants which are indefinitely called *staggerweed*; to eating which the diseases of cattle are sometimes attributed.

29. GENUS. SEDUM. L.

(*Deriv.* Latin *Sedere* to sit, from its growing or sitting on the surface of rocks.)

Class 10th. DECANDRIA—Order, PENTAGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx 5—cleft. Petals 5. Capsules 5, superior, many seeded, opening internally.

Species 1st. SEDUM TERNATUM. *Stone-crop.*

Sp. Ch. Creeping; leaves flat, round spatulate, by threes; cyme generally 3-spiked; flowers white.

Obs. This handsome little vegetable is apt to mislead beginners in the study of plants, from the circumstance of many of the flowers being *octandrous*, and the calyx, petals and germs being arranged by 4s instead of 5s as laid down in the generic character. The most of the species of this genus, however, are strictly decandrous, and indeed the central flower of the present species is so always. Root perennial; stem procumbent;—lower leaves orbicular; upper lanceolate; all thick and

succulent. On the shelving rocks bordering Elkhorn. Flowers beginning of April.

Syn. Sedum Portulacoides, *Muhl.*

Species 2d. SEDUM PULCHELLUM.

Sp. Ch. Glabrous, stems assurgent; leaves linear, succulent; obtuse; cyme many-spiked; flowers sessile.

Obs. Mainly differing from the preceding in the leaves which are linear and cylindrical. Found in company with it on moist rocks and sometimes on the trunks of decaying trees. Owing to this circumstance it is frequently mistaken for a moss by those unacquainted with its character. Flowers a little after the former.

30. GENUS. VIOLA. L. Violet.

(*Deriv.* A Latin name of obscure Greek derivation.)

Class 5th. PENTANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx 5-leaved, produced at the base. Corolla 5-petalled, irregular, the lower petal cornute behind. Anthers cohering: Capsule superior 3-valved, 1 celled.

Species 1st. VIOLA CUCULLATA. Hooded Violet.

Sp. Ch. Stemless; leaves cordate, somewhat acute, glabrous, hooded at base; flowers inverted; petals obliquely bent.

Obs. This is with us the most abundant of the violets, as well as the first to bloom; the whole surface of moist meadows and pastures being covered with them in the fore part of April.—Petals blue and purple, white at base; the base of upper one with violet-coloured veins; of the two lateral bearded; of the lower smooth. Peduncles longer than the leaves with the summit reflexed. Stipules linear—1st to 15th April.

Syn. Viola cordata. *Walt.*

Species 2d. VIOLA OBLIQUA. Aiton.

Sp. Ch. Stemless; smooth; leaves cordate, acute, flat, crenate, serrate; flowers obliquely bent; lateral petals bearded; inferior ones acute, carinate; stipules lanceolate.

Obs. This species is by no means easily distinguished from the preceding, with which it is found in common. It is, however, a larger plant, and minute examination will detect specific differences in the leaves, petioles, stipules and flowers. (See

Schweinitz's monograph on the genus *Viola* in American Journal of Science and Arts, Vol. 5, No. 1.)

Species 3d. VIOLA OCHROLEUCA? Schw. *White Violet.*

Sp. Ch. Caulescent. Stem somewhat erect, branched, purplish, smooth; leaves cordate, acuminate; stipules oblong-lanceolate, dentate-ciliate.

Obs. The present species, about which there seems some obscurity in the books to which I have referred, is easily recognized from its congeners of this locality, by its large, white flowers, with a tinge of yellow. It is found in common with the two preceding, and forms dense patches among the grass in moist situations. As the season advances it rises with a slender flexuose stem to the height of 3—12 inches, and then produces inconspicuous, apetalous flowers.

Syn. V. Striata. Wild. Pers. Pursh. Nutt.

Species 4th. VIOLA HASTATA. Yellow Violet.

Sp. Ch. Caulescent smooth; stem simple, leafy above; leaves hastate, on very long petioles; stipules minute, ciliate denticulate.

Obs. This, although much less frequently met with than either of the preceding, is easily distinguished from them by the deep yellow colour of its flowers. Rare in this neighbourhood, being only occasionally found in shaded woods. Flowers during the fore part of April.

Species 5th. VIOLA CONCOLOR. Muhl.

Sp. Ch. Caulescent. Stem straight erect; leaves cuneate-lanceolate; stipules lanceolate entire; peduncles very short, axillary, 2-3 flowered; petals connivent, emarginate; spur none.

Obs. This anomalous species, which appears to me very unnaturally grouped with the violets, is also very rare in this section of Kentucky. I have only met with it in a solitary, secluded, rocky spot lying to the left of, and near the Woodford road. Several stems issuing from a single root, arise erect and unbranched to the height of 1 or 2 feet, bearing lance-shaped, pointed leaves. The flowers are small and greenish-coloured, produced in 2s and 3s at the axills of the upper leaves about the 10th of April. The whole habit of the plant, however, is so unlike that of the genus, as easily to mislead the student.

Other species of this extensive tribe are no doubt to be found in the neighbourhood of Lexington: as yet however I have detected only the above. In other parts of the state six or eight additional species have been met with.

31. GENUS. LEONTODON. L. *Dandelion.*

(*Deriv.* Greek *Leon* a lion and *odous* a tooth; from a fancied resemblance in the teeth of the leaves.)

Class 19th. SYNGENESIA—Order, ÆQUALIS.

Gen. Ch. Calyx oblong, double; outer one loose. *Receptacle* naked; *pappus* feathered.

Species 1st. LEONTODON TARAXACUM.

Sp. Ch. Outer scales of the calyx reflexed; *scapes* 1-flowered; *leaves* runcinate.

Obs. No portion of the Union is more completely overrun by this naturalized foreigner than this section, being so abundant as to give a yellowish hue to pastures in early spring (1st of April) from the profusion of its flowers.

(Specific name derived from the Greek *tarasso* to move, or trouble, from its reputed diuretic and laxative properties.)

32. GENUS. POLEMONIUM. L.

(*Deriv.* According to Pliny derived from Greek, *Polemos*, war: because Kings had contended for the honor of its discovery.)

Class 5th. PENTANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx 5-cleft. *Corolla* somewhat rotate, 5-lobed, tube short, closed at its base by 5 stamiferous valves or scales. *Stigma* trifid. *Capsule* 3-celled, superior.

Species 1st. POLEMONIUM REPTANS. *Jacob's-ladder.*

Sp. Ch. *Leaves* pinnate, generally by sevens: *flowers* terminal nodding.

Obs. This beautiful native well deserves a place in all flower-gardens; it bears transplantation well and improves by cultivation. It is a hardy plant and, with a little protection, may be made to bloom throughout the winter. Its favorite localities are in rich shaded situations among rocks and decaying logs, where its spikes of sky-blue flowers, with white anthers, appear about the 19th of April. There is a variety with white flowers.

33. GENUS. PHLOX. L. Wild Pink.

(Deriv. Greek *Phlox*, fire or flame, in allusion to the colour of the flowers.)

Class 5th. PENTANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx deeply 5-cleft, segments connivent. Corolla salver-formed; border 5-lobed, flat; tube more or less curved.

Stamina unequal. Capsule subrotund, 3-celled; cells 1-seeded.

Species 1st. PHLOX DIVARICATA? Sweet William.

Sp. Ch. Stem low, pubescent, decumbent; leaves oval-lanceolate; branches divaricate, loose, few flowered; segments of the corolla obovate, teeth of the calyx subulate linear. Tor.

Obs. Of this numerous genus, there are but few natives of this locality. The present species is easily distinguished from others, by its earlier period of flowering, its lower growth, rarely rising above 1 foot, and by its partially decumbent habit. The leaves, in the specimens I have met with, have been universally opposite, sessile, and few in number. Flowers in a terminal panicle, pale blue or more frequently rose-coloured. Generally known under the name of Sweet William or May Pink. Abundant in half reclaimed lands and borders of fields, from 10th to 20th April.

34. GENUS. CERASTIUM. L.

(Deriv. Greek *keration*, a little horn, in allusion to the shape of the capsule. Sm.)

Class 10th. DECANDRIA—Order, PENTAGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx 5-leaved. Petals 5, bifid or emarginate. Capsule 1-celled, bursting at the summit with 10 teeth.

Species 1st. CERASTIUM HIRSUTUM. Mouse-ear Chickweed.

Sp. Ch. Very hairy, diffuse; leaves oval obtuse, connate; flowers clustered; petals 2-cleft a little longer than the acute calyx. Ell.

Obs. Mr. Elliott's description suits this plant remarkably well as it obtains with us. Very much branched and villous. Stems rarely rising more than 6-8 inches from the ground. Flowers inconspicuous, rarely fully expanded, small, white. Common in cultivated ground; in grass land frequently assuming a yellowish colour. Flowers middle of April.

Species 2d. CERASTIUM LONGE-PEDUNCULATUM.

Sp. Ch. Viscid-pubescent; leaves oblong-linear, acute; peduncles long.

Obs. Altogether a larger plant than the preceding, rising sometimes to the height of 12 inches, but more frequently semi-procumbent. The whole plant is remarkably viscid to the touch, and is strongly characterized by the circumstance which affords the specific name, viz. the unusual length of the peduncles. Found in common with the former but much more rare. Flowers a few days later.

Syn. C. Glutinosum. Nutt. C. Nutans. Torrey.

35. GENUS.

ERIGERON.

Fleabane.

(*Deriv.* Greek *Er*, the spring, and *geron*, an old man; because it is hoary in the spring. *Sm.*)

Class 19th. SYNGENESIA—Order, SUPERFLUA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx imbricate. Florets of the ray linear, very numerous. Pappus double; exterior minute; interior hairy, of few rays. Receptacle naked.

Species 1st. ERIGERON BELLIDIFOLIUM.

Sp. Ch. Hairy, gray, radical leaves obovate, spathulate, subserrate: stem leaves remote, oblong-ovate, amplexicaul, entire; stems 3-5-flowered; rays nearly twice as long as the hemispherical calyx. Torrey.

Obs. The present species, as it occurs in this vicinity, differs from the foregoing description in having the lower stem-leaves coarsely though irregularly toothed, while the upper ones only are entire or untoothed. The number of flowers also exceed that mentioned in the specific description, being often as numerous as 8-10. The flowers begin to shew themselves about the 10th of April, when the plant is only 3-4 inches high, and continue unfolding, until it has attained the height of 18 or 24 inches. The central flower, as observed by Mr. Elliott, is generally larger than the lateral ones—their colour varying from delicate pink to white—in pastures and meadows abundant.

Species 2d. ERIGERON PHILADELPHICUM.

Sp. Ch. Pubescent; leaves cuncate-oblong, cauline semi-amplexicaul; rays capillary.

Obs. A much taller species than the preceding, growing 3-4 feet high, very much branched and covered with a profusion of small white or pale purple flowers, with yellow disks. This is one of the greatest pests of the farmer, frequently so completely overrunning meadows as to destroy the hay. Some repate it medicinal, attributing to it tonic and sudorific properties. Flowers later than the last, and continues in bloom much longer.

36. GENUS. PHACELIA. Jussieu.

(*Deriv.* Greek, *Phakelos*, a bundle, from its cluster'd manner of flowering.)

Class 5th. PENTANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx 5-cleft. Corolla 5-cleft. Stamens exerted.

Capsule 2-celled, 2-valved, 4-seeded. *Ell.*

Species 1st. PHACELIA FIMBRIATA.

Sp. Ch. Leaves pinnatifid, the lobes undivided; segments of the corolla fimbriate. *Ell.*

Obs. This plant, abundant throughout the western country, has at first glance the aspect and mode of flowering of an hydrophyllum. The whole part is hispid, the lower leaves somewhat petioled, the upper sessile or amplexicaul; all alternate and pinnatifid. Flowers of a pale blue are borne in a simple terminal raceme, revolute before flowering, become erect afterwards. Calyx persistent. Style 2-cleft. Grows in clumps; outer branches semi-prostrate; central more erect, rising to the height of 10-12 inches. Moist meadows—flowers from the middle of April.

37. GENUS. CERCIS. L.

(*Deriv.* Greek *kerkis* of Theophrastus.)

Class 10th. DECANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx 5-toothed, gibbous at base. Corolla papilionaceous, with a short vexillum under the wings. Seed vessel a legume.

Species 1st. CERCIS CANADENSIS. Red Bud.

Sp. Ch. Leaves nearly round, cordate, acuminate, villous at the axils of the nerves, legumes on short foot-stalks.

Obs. The Red-bud, by which name it is universally known in this country, does not occur spontaneously in the level rich lands immediately round Lexington; but as the face of the

country becomes more broken on approaching the Kentucky river, it is met with in great abundance; constituting, by the profusion of its pale rose-colour'd flowers, a pleasing object in early spring, before any of the forest trees have put forth their leaves. It never rises, even in the best soil, to any considerable elevation, but when growing singly its branches extend horizontally to a great extent in proportion to its height. The flowers appear generally by the 12th of April and are succeeded by a great number of pods, borne on short peduncles; and the tree becomes clothed, towards the 1st of May, with large heart-shaped leaves of a rich dark green.

38. GENUS. FRAXINUS. L. *Ash Tree.*

(Deriv. The Latin name of the Ash Tree: Etymology obscure. *Darl.*)

Class 2d. DECANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Polygamous: *Calyx* none, or 4-parted. *Corolla* none, or 4-petalled. *Samara* 1-seeded: wing lanceolate.

Species 1st. FRAXINUS AMERICANA. *White Ash.*

Sp. Ch. *Leaflets* petiolate, oval-lanceolate, acuminate, slightly toothed, glaucous beneath.

Obs. This is one of the largest as well as the most useful of our forest trees; growing frequently to the height of 80 feet with a diameter of 3 feet; and applicable to many useful purposes in building, the mechanic arts and rural economy. It is readily distinguished from the *Blue Ash*, with which it is found in common, by its whiter, ash-coloured bark. Flowers about the middle of April, and is abundantly met with on the richer lands throughout the state.

Syn. F. Discolor, *Muhl.* F. Alba. *Marshall.* F. Acuminata. *Pursh.*

Species 2d. FRAXINUS QUADRANGULATA. *Blue Ash.*

Sp. Ch. *Leaflets* subsessile, oval-lanceolate, serrate, pubescent underneath: younger branches quadrangular.

Obs. The blue ash is more limited in its geographical range than the preceding species; but in this locality it is equally abundant and attains nearly if not quite to as large a size. Its wood unites strength with durability and elasticity and hence is applicable to a great variety of uses. Flowers about the same time with the former.

Species 3d. FRAXINUS SAMBUCIFOLIA. *Black Ash.*

Sp. Ch. *Leaflets* sessile, oval-lanceolate, serrate, acuminate, base rounded and unequal.

Obs. This is also a large tree, but much less frequent than either of the preceding, in this neighbourhood; in the western part of the State, on the contrary, it becomes more abundant than either, and is made to supply the purposes of both. Its wood, however, being marked with black streaks makes it more unfit for flooring. It is said, moreover, to be less durable than the two species just mentioned.

39. GENUS. LAURUS. L.

(*Deriv.* The ancient Latin name of the Bay tree: Origin obscure. *Darl.*)

Class 9th. ENNEANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. *Calyx* none. *Corolla* resembling a calyx, 4-6 parted.

Nectary with 3 two-awned glands surrounding the germ.

Stamina variable, 3 to 14. *Drupe* 1-seeded.

Species 1st. LAURUS BENZOIN. *Spicewood.*

Sp. Ch. *Leaves* obovate, lanceolate, pubescent underneath: *flowers* in clustered umbels: buds and pedicels smooth.

Obs. The Spicewood is a common shrub throughout the Union; and is here met with in all shaded, rich woods where the undergrowth has not been destroyed; preferring mostly situations near small streams of water. Its little, yellow, clustered flowers appear towards the middle of April or earlier, before any appearance of foliage is observed on the branches, and are succeeded by numerous bright red berries. The bark of the wood is pleasantly aromatic and is sometimes used in warm infusion as a diaphoretic.

Species 2d. LAURUS SASSAFRAS. *Sassafras.*

Sp. Ch. Mostly dioicous; *leaves* some oval and entire, others 2 or 3 lobed.

Obs. This tree, although very abundant in some portions of the state, is not met with any where within a few miles of Lexington. On approaching the Kentucky river, within the bounds of the county of Fayette, it is seen growing in fence corners, having sprung up since the clearing of the land: and on the alluvions and hills bordering that river large trees of 12-18 inches diameter are frequently seen. Flowers generally towards the middle of April, in somewhat the same manner with

the Spicewood: its fruit however is larger and of a blue colour. Popular opinion has long since attributed much virtue to the bark of the Sassafras root; and medical countenance is frequently given to the idea of its being a *purifier of the blood*.

By some botanists these two species of *Laurus* are thrown into a sub-genus called *Euosmus*, from their pleasant aroma.

40. GENUS PHALANGIUM. *Tournefort. Wild Hyacinth.*

(*Deriv.* A Greek name of a plant, mentioned by Dioscorides, derived perhaps from *phalagx*, a phalanx or legion, in allusion to the number and disposition of its flowers.)

Class 6th. HEXANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Corolla of six petals, spreading. Filaments naked or smooth. Capsule ovate. Seeds angular.

Species 1st. PHALANGIUM ESCULENTUM. Nuttall.

Sp. Ch. Root bulbous, leaves all radical, linear, carinate; stigma minutely 3-cleft.

Obs. This is decidedly one of the most beautiful of our indigenous plants; throwing up from the centre of a tuft of smooth grass-like leaves, a long solitary stem 1 to 2 feet high, sheathed below by a few convoluted bractes, and clothed at the summit by a number of large purple or pale-blue flowers, 10 or 12 of which are in perfection at a time; these slowly shrivelling, (marcescent,) others are evolved, so as to keep up a succession of bloom for several days. The root, which is bulbous and situated deep in the ground, is eatable and nutritious—Frequent in moist meadows in certain localities, but generally disappearing upon culture—Flowers from the 20th of April.

Syn. Scilla Esculenta. *Bot. Mag.*
Phalangium Quamash. *Pursh.*

41. GENUS. ASARUM. L.

(*Deriv.* The Latin name of a plant, spoken of by Pliny.)

Class 11th. DODECANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNIA.

Gen. Ch. Calyx 3—4 cleft, superior, persistent. Corolla none. Anthers adhering to the sides of the filaments. Capsule 6-celled.

Species 1st. ASARUM CANADENSE. Wild Ginger.

Sp. Ch. Leaves 2, broad-reniform: calyx woolly, deeply 3-parted, reflexed.

Obs. The wild ginger is readily detected, by its two large kidney-shaped leaves, supported on long footstalks, and covered with a velvet softness,—by its solitary and singular flower issuing from the axil of the two leaves; and by the aromatic odour of the root, which has given it its common name. Occasionally abundant in rich shaded woods among rocks: flowering about the 20th of April.

We have followed Michaux, Muhlenberg and Elliott in placing this plant in the class Dodecandria, although by Pursh, Nuttall, Barton and Torrey it is ranked under Gynandria; and by Darlington in Polyandria.

Syn. *A. Carolinianum.* Walt.

42. GENUS. CAULOPHYLLUM. Mx.

(*Deriv.* Greek *Kaulos*, a stem and *phyllon*, a leaf: from the resemblance of the stem to a leaf-stalk. Michaux.)

Class 6th. HEXANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNA.

Gen. Ch. *Calyx* 3—6 leaved. *Corolla* 6-petalled, with a sub-reniform nectary on each claw. *Berry* stipitate, 1-seeded.

Species 1st. CAULOPHYLLUM THALICTROIDES. Pappoose-root.

Sp. Ch. Glabrous; leaves supradecomposed; leaflets oval, terminal one 3-lobed.

Obs. This, the only species of the genus, was once abundant throughout this country, but has now almost disappeared from the more cultivated districts, and is consequently rare about Lexington, being only met with in the more secluded and unfrequented woodlands. It grows to the height of 12 or 18 inches, producing a single triternate compounded leaf; and a panicle of small greenish-yellow flowers, succeeded by dark-blue berries which are covered with a mealy powder.

Under the name of *Pappoose-root* this plant has had some medicinal virtues ascribed to it.—Flowers towards the latter part of April: berries ripe in June.

Syn. *Leontice Thalictroides.* Willd.

43. GENUS. ÆSCULUS. L.

(*Deriv.* Latin *Esca*, food: the fruit of some of the species being esculent.)

Class 7th. HEPTANDRIA—Order, MONOGYNA.

Gen. Ch. *Calyx* 1-leaved, 4—5 toothed, ventricose. *Corolla*

4—5 petalled. *Petals* unequal inserted upon the calyx. *Capsule* 3-celled. *Seeds* large, solitary.

Species 1st. *ÆSCULUS PALLIDA.*

Common Buckeye.

Sp. Ch. *Leaflets* by 5s: *corolla* 4-petalled: *stamina* mostly 7, twice the length of the *corolla*: *fruit* spinous. *Pursh.*

Obs. This species is abundant throughout the forests in the rich lands of Kentucky. It is a tree of but ordinary stature, and for the most part of crooked growth, remarkable for the early period of its foliation, being the first of our trees to become green in the spring, and the earliest to cast its leaves in the fall.—The fruit is a large nut of a bright brown colour with a very remarkable hilum or eye, which has given the tree its common name: it is sometimes eaten by cattle, and often with fatal effects: Flowers about the 20th of April, and is then a very beautiful object: fruit ripens in September.

Syn. *Pavia Lutea. Mich. fil.*

Societies 2d. *ÆSCULUS FLAVA.*

Sweet Buckeye.

Sp. Ch. *Leaves* by 5s, pubescent underneath near the midrib, equally serrulate: *corolla* 4-petalled, with the claws of the connivent petals longer than the calyx: *fruit* unarmed.

Obs. A much larger and straighter tree than the preceding, but less abundant than it, being in this locality confined to the alluvion bottoms of the Kentucky river. Unlike the former the wood of the sweet buckeye is susceptible of being applied to many useful purposes.—The flowers are unfolded towards the end of April and are succeeded by smooth capsules containing one or three large seeds.

Syn. *Pavia Ohioensis? Mich. fil. Sylva. Amer.*

STELLARIA. (SEE GENUS 4.)

Species 2d. *STELLARIA PUBERA.*

Starwort.

Sp. Ch. Pubescent; *leaves* sessile, ovate, ciliate; *pedicels* erect; *petals* longer than the calyx.

Obs. This species differs from the *S. Media*, before mentioned, in its less branching, and more erect habit. A single stem rises to the height of 6–8 inches, bearing a few comparatively large flowers. Rare; in woodlands. Flowers 20th April.

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PROPOSED WESTERN PUBLICATIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

We are much gratified to learn the intention of those able naturalists, Messrs. Maclure, Say and Lesueur, to publish at New Harmony, Indiana, the following works.

1. *A Work on the Fishes of America*, by Mr. Lesueur, with 4 coloured plates in each number; at 40 cents per number.
2. *A Work on American Shells*, by Mr. Say, with 10 coloured plates in each number, at \$1.00 per number.
3. *Michaux's Sylva Americana*; the proposals for the republication of which are thus announced by Mr. Maclure.

"Before I left Europe, I found that a London book-seller was on the point of purchasing the whole edition of MICHAUX'S SYLVA AMERICANA from that author, with all the copper-plates, which having only struck off about two or three hundred copies, are as good as new. I interfered, and bought the whole, because I thought it a stock-book that ought to be in all our libraries, as the only register of the greatest part of our forest trees; for after the cutting down of our woods, the most useful only will be left in preservation. And likewise, from the expense of publishing a new work, it is probable we shall never have another so perfect, of which the London book-seller, taking the advantage of his monopoly, would have made us pay dear; for, even when the work was in the hands of the author, the London price was 10 guineas per copy.

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Lexington, Ky. July 28th, 1828.

C. W. SHORT, M. D. DEAN.

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