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QUERCUS RUBRA ONCE MORE

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For nearly 150 years the well-known timber tree of eastern United States was recognized as *Quercus rubra*, but in 1915 Sargent¹ used the name *Q. rubra* for the southern tree previously known as *Q. falcata* Michx. And recently Rehder² has entirely rejected the name *Q. rubra* on the ground that it is a *nomen ambiguum* "based by Linnaeus (Spec. Pl. 2: 996. 1753)³ on two different species. The first two synonyms refer to the southern red oak or Spanish oak . . . , while the two synonyms enumerated by Linnaeus under β are apparently referable to the northern red oak. Du Roi in 1771 (Obs. Bot. 35) applied *Q. rubra* L. to the northern red oak. . . " This quotation from Rehder (l. c.) explains succinctly the arguments of Sargent.

In my opinion both procedures were unnecessary, and I believe that we should apply the name *Quercus rubra*, as formerly, to the northern tree.

Sargent was correct in attaching great importance to the first

¹ RHODORA xvii. 39-40 (1915), xviii. 45-48 (1916).

² Journ. Arnold Arb. xix. 283-284 (1938).

³ QUERCUS foliis obtuse-sinuatis setaceo-mucronatis.

Quercus foliorum sinubus obtusis: angulis lanceolatis seta terminatis integerrimis vix divisus. Gron. virg. 117.

Quercus esculi divisura, foliis amplioribus aculeatis. Pluk. alm. 309. t. 54. f. 4. Catesb. car. I. p. 23. t. 23.

β *Quercus foliorum sinubus obtusis: angulis acutis seta terminatis: intermediis vix tridentatis margine integerrimo. Hort. cliff. 448. Roy. lugdb. 80.*

Quercus carolinensis, virentibus venis muricata. Catesb. car. I. p. 21. t. 21. f. 1.

Quercus virginiana venis rubris muricata. Pluk. alm. 309. t. 54. f. 1 [mistake for f. 5]. Habitat in Virginia, Carolina



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