

Raspberry, and in 1880 on mint. The pupa is a striking object, being of a cream colour beautifully marked with a wide, irregular, broken, black band on dorsum and a row of lateral black spots. In length it is about 20 mm.

Palaeoplusia venusta Walk. 2 July, 1899, (Y); 24 Aug., 1900, (Y); 27 Aug., 1902, (G); 30 Aug., 1899, (G).

Abrostola urentis Gr. 19 Aug., 1900, (Y).

The moths have also been reared by Mr. Young from mature larvæ collected on 15 Aug., 1898, 15 Sept., 1899, and 8 June, 1905. The larvæ were found on nettle. I have recently had an opportunity of examining two inflated specimens. The caterpillar is a rather handsome one, being pale green in colour or pale brownish, with whitish V-shaped marks on dorsum, one on each abdominal segment, the sides of which inwardly are bordered with pale brown in the green specimens and darker brown in the pale brownish variety. On segments 5, 6 and 12, the lower portion of the V-shaped mark is filled with brown, an indistinct whitish dorsal stripe is present, and a wide white stigmatal band bordered above with brown. On either side of each abdominal segment is a wide oblique dark dash. Head pale green, reticulated with brown. Down the centre of each cheek is a darker band of brown and on either side a wide margin of the same colour. In the brownish larvæ the head is of a much darker brown, the reticulations being very distinct. The thoracic feet are pale brown, the prolegs being concolorous with the body. The posterior half of the anal feet are brown.

RANDOM BOTANICAL NOTES FROM PORTNEUF COUNTY, QUE.

BY BRO. M. VICTORIN, of the Christian Schools, Longueuil
College, Que.

Botanically speaking, the Laurentian area of Quebec is very nearly untrodden ground. It has been the good fortune of the writer to spend a full week on the upper part of the River Ste. Anne, Portneuf Co., towards St. Raymond and the vicinity, and to observe some of its prominent floristic features.

As could be expected we find that the flora of the district, though not differing essentially from that of the Laurentian zone north of Montreal, exhibits, nevertheless, a somewhat more pronounced boreal aspect.

The whole valley is densely drifted with heavy sand and clay deposits, obliterating the underlying crystalline rocks.

Getting in the field at the end of July, we are at first impressed by the local abundance of *Habenaria clavellata* (Michx.) Spreng., an orchid very little known in this province. Evidently it is the leading *Habenaria*, thriving in every mossy corner. On the scanty sandy covering of the rocky slopes, it is interesting to note a peculiar grass, *Danthonia compressa* Aust., the range of which as given in Gray's Manual, "Maine to New York and southward" should be thus considerably extended.

Kneeling to drink from a drying spring we come by a tiny *Sparganium* which turns out to be *Sparganium acaule* (Beeby) Rydb., a critical species we will meet under various puzzling forms later in the season, in the Temiscouata region. The ponds swarm with *Sagittaria latifolia* Willd., and *Calla palustris* L., while *Carex trisperma* Dewey is a common sedge in sphagnum swamps. Characteristic enough of the open-ground flora are *Galium asprellum* Michx., *Comandra livida* Richards, *Veronica officinalis* L., and *Hieracium scabrum* Michx.

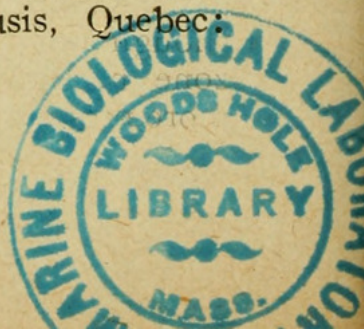
We notice with considerable displeasure very extensive patches, where the hirsute rosettes of *Hieracium Pilosella* L., check all other vegetation. We have elsewhere ⁽¹⁾ drawn attention to this dangerous invader from the Maritime Provinces which spreads with alarming rapidity.

Going down the river to "Chute à Panet," where an important pulpmill dams the waters, we make a find of more than ordinary interest. *Aster linariifolius* L. was of doubtful record in Quebec, its supposed northern limit being latitude 45 degrees. It was therefore a surprise to see that beautiful blue-rayed *Aster* covering the exposed gneissic rocks in the river, just below the dam. But the plant, though belonging undoubtedly to *A. linariifolius* L., differed from the typical form in its less rigid leaves and shorter oblong-linear, mostly round-tipped, ascending leaves, and in having the oblong-linear obtuse bracts of the involucre more herbaceous. It then proves to be a well-pronounced geographic variety, which through the courtesy of Professor M. L. Fernald, of the Gray Herbarium, now stands thus: ⁽²⁾.

Aster linariifolius L., var. *Victorinii* Fernald (nov. var.) Humilis 1-1.6 dm. altus; foliis adscendentibus vel patentibus confertis viridibus oblongo-linearibus, longioribus 1.3-1.8 cm. longis 2-4 m.m. latis, apice rotundatis vel obtusis, Quebec:

⁽¹⁾ Naturaliste Canadien, XL : 86

⁽²⁾ Rhodora, XVI : 192





Aster linariifolius L., var. *Victorinii* Fernald.

1. The plant—natural size
2. A leaf—x 4
3. Akene with pappus—x 4
4. Outer bract of the involucre—x 8
5. Inner bract of the involucre—x 8

On rocky banks of River Ste. Anne, St. Raymond, Portneuf Co., August, 1914, Bro. M. Victorin, No. 618. (Type in Gray Herbarium).

While travelling on the Canadian Pacific Railway between Montreal and Quebec, we noticed that a small blue-rayed Aster occupied an extensive tract of sandy ground between Trois-Rivières and Champlain. We are quite convinced it is *A. linariifolius* L., but whether it is the typical form or the variety *Victorinii*, or an intermediate between them, is yet to be determined.

Before leaving "Chute à Panet," *Gentiana linearis* Froel., a lover of the near-by moist thickets must be mentioned.

Some ten miles north of St. Raymond the country becomes thoroughly wild, and partly cultivated land gives way to fish and game territories, dotted with innumerable lakes.

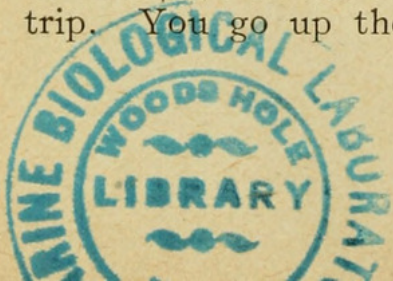
If we go up the so-called main branch of the River Ste. Anne, we enter a most picturesque region, well-known to sportsmen under the self-explanatory name of *Pique-Mouche*. There begins the famous Tourili Club Territory. From the Club-House, a *Chemin de Portage* takes us to 1000 feet over a hill before we tramp to the grassy shores of the first of a magnificent series of lakes, Lake Ouastaouan. This small lake looks much as if artificially induced by the industry of beavers. It is quickly disappearing owing to the deposition of mud, and a vigorous growth of carices and water-lilies.

We were pleased to record here the presence of a much critical plant whose distribution is little known with us: *Nymphaea rubrodisca* (Morong) Greene, a probable hybrid between *N. Americana* (Prov.) Miller & Standley, and *N. microphylla* Pers. The numerous uprooted rhizomes indicate that the beavers of the Ouastaouan rely on this plant for food.

The shallow ends of the lake maintain a hydrophytic association of some interest: *Myriophyllum Farwellii* Morong, *Myriophyllum verticillatum* L., var. *pectinatum* Wallr., the loose submerged form of *Hippuris vulgaris* L., and *Utricularia macrorhiza* Le Conte.

Though very little attention was devoted to cryptogams, we noticed *Icmadophila ericetorum* (L.) Azahlbr., a crustose lichen expanding its thallus horizontally on tight dying sphagnum hummocks; *Dicranum longifolium* Ehrh., a frequent moss in the Laurentides grows in high situations.

Perhaps the most pleasant outing a nature lover can make in this part of the country is to take the "Little Saguenay" trip. You go up the Bras du Nord to a distance of about



fifteen miles, entering gradually into a canyon well deserving the name it bears: "Little Saguenay." The scope of these notes does not permit us to dwell on the most interesting remains of the glacial period to be observed there. Let it be sufficient to say that the glacier has passed through that narrow valley, has notched some of the peaks in odd fashion, and left numerous kames and moraines.

A relatively good *Chemin de Portage* begins on the right bank of the river, and ascends very quickly to a height of 1100 feet where Lake Hauteur sleeps on the edge of the cliff with a bald, notched and grim looking gneissic peak, sitting on its silent shores. A little vigorous paddling brings us to the opposite shore, where another *Chemin de Portage* starts. This, roughly laid on the rich humus carved by the royal hoof of the moose, winds for miles through the magnificent northern forest, until we reach another small sheet of water, Lake Epinette. Our aneroid now shows 1300 feet above the level of the river, and the herbaceous vegetation becomes more typically boreal, as it appears by the growth of *Luzula parviflora* (Ehrh.) Desv., nodding its dishevelled heads over cold springs, and especially *Galium Kantschaticum* Steller, an arctic-alpine species hitherto unknown from the Laurentian district. Very common is *Epipactis tessellata* (Lodd) A. A. Eaton, all along the *Chemin de Portage*.

Numerous mosses, lichens and hepatics thrive in these essentially mesophytic conditions. Sloping down damp rocks are thick cushions of *Sphagnum Girgensöhnii* Russ., and *Sphagnum quinquefarium* (Lindb.) Warnst., with stiffer groups of *Polytrichum Ohioense* R. & C. framing the reddish masses of *Scapania nemorosa* (L.) Dum., while the pallid *Trichocolea tomentella* (Ehrh.) Dum., creeps in magnificent attire.

In every fresh spot, *Mnium affine* Bland., *Plagiothecium Ruthei* Limb., *Brachythecium rivulare* B. & S., *Drepanocladus uncinatus* (Hedw.) Warnst., are to be found.

The shallow margin of Lake Epinette is strewn with the black alga-like masses of the hydrophytic *Fontinalis Novae-Angliae* Sulliv. But much more interesting is the fact that the line brings from a bottom of fifteen feet a compound of *Drepanocladus capillifolius* Warnst., and a submerged form of *Sphagnum subsecundum* Nees., which, according to Dr. A. Leroy Andrews, has been made a Warnstorffian species, namely *Sphagnum obesum* Wils.

To close these notes we will only mention a visit to Lake Sept-Iles, which gave us *Glyceria Torrejana* (Spreng.) Hitch., with the usual *Eriocaulon septangulare* With., and *Lobelia Dort-*

manna L. Moreover in a corner of that lake which has developed into a peculiar type of peat bog, and has received the name of "Lac des Bouleaux," we find, extremely abundant, *Nymphaea rubrodisca* (Morong) Greene, already mentioned from Lake Ouastaouan. We are, therefore, led to the conclusion that this hybrid water-lily is very common with us, and generally overlooked. We are satisfied also that, fragmentary as they are, these observations lead to extend considerably northward the range of such interesting species as *Aster linariifolius* L., *Galium Kamtschaticum* Steller, *Danthonia compressa* Aust., etc.

BIRD NOTE.

The present winter, thus far, has been a comparatively mild and open one, the recent thaw having laid bare the hill-sides and reduced the lower levels to small ponds. I covered eight miles to-day cross-country on Isle Jesus without the use of snowshoes.

In a farming district, where decayed vegetation and other refuse was lying about, I observed a flock of 25 crows, the birds passing and chasing one another as they moved in a southerly direction. The familiar caws reminded one of days in March when migration is at its highest. Crows seldom remain with us during the winter and whether their presence now indicates a continuance of mild weather and an early spring, remains to be seen.

WESTMOUNT, QUE.

January 17th, 1915.

W. J. BROWN.

ERRATA.

In the account of the meeting of the Botanical Branch, held on Nov. 14, 1914, published in the December issue of this volume two slight errors occurred which should be corrected.

On page 118, it is stated that "Dr. Malte dealt more particularly with forage roots such as mangels, turnips and sugar beets. He pointed out that the original wild form of such root crops consisted of a creeping form found on the sand of the coastal regions of Europe." The wild plant referred to, is *Beta maritima*, from which our cultivated mangels and sugar beets have been developed. This plant has, of course, nothing whatever to do with the turnip varieties which have been developed from species of *Brassica*.

On page 119, it is further stated that, in the district of Yarmouth, N.S., "eleven hundred pounds of seed per acre is about the average for mangels." This statement should not refer to mangels, but to turnips.



Marie-Victorin. 1915. "Random Botanical Notes from Portneuf County, Quebec." *The Ottawa naturalist* 28(11), 155–160.

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