

that each species had its own peculiar adaptation for the successful distribution of its spores. In one case, viz., that of the common polypore which grows on the sides of trees, it was admirably shown by an excellent specimen that the vertical position of the spore-bearing tubes is essential to distribution of spores and that when the position of the fruiting body had been altered by the falling of the tree that a re-adjustment of the plane of the fruiting body through 90° had taken place the succeeding season. Another specimen exhibited showed the effects of the mycelium in changing the colour of the wood fibres from the normal shade to a brilliant green.

During the discussion which followed Mr. Eastham's address Mr. Gussow referred to several peculiar uses of the tissue produced by the fruiting bodies of certain fungi that grow on wood. He cited an instance which had come under his own observation where the silk-like fibres from the under or spore-breeding surface of a polypore had been used in the making of a remarkably good cap. He also referred to the peculiar way in which rude fire-arms were discharged at the time of the Thirty Years' War in Europe. Some of the dry and spongy fibres collected from the fruiting bodies of certain wood fungi were used somewhat after the manner of a fuse. This was ignited by sparks from a steel and flint and "eventually" the gun went off.

J. W. G.

NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF INTERESTING FORMS OF CYPERACEÆ IN QUEBEC.

BY BRO. VICTORIN, LONGUEUIL COLLEGE, LONGUEUIL, QUE.

Very little is known of the distribution of our local Cyperaceæ. Being of slight or no economic value, these plants are of no interest to the average man, and even botanists themselves frequently overlook them.

Apart from any utilitarian consideration, the sedges play an important part in nature. It is by means of this type of organism that plant life takes hold of marshes, shoals, riverbanks and damp places generally. If the finality of, the multitude of individuals appears obvious, that of the immense number of species is yet an unsolved problem. It is to be remembered that the study of the *Carex* species alone, numbering about 1,000, constitutes a whole science by itself, and demands the labour of numerous specialists.

The object of these notes is to make known several species, or varieties, of this family, collected by the writer, in Quebec, which are, he believes, mostly new for that province, if not for Canada.

1.—*Cyperus Schweinitzii* Torr.: Collected at Oka, P.Q., on the alluvial barrens bordering the Lake of Two-Mountains. It was hitherto known in Canada only from the Great Lakes region, southern Ontario and the Northwest. The limits of this *Cyperus* are, therefore, considerably extended; it will probably prove to be fairly abundant in the Lower Ottawa Valley, when properly separated from common *C. esculentus* L. In the field, *C. Schweinitzii* can be readily distinguished from *C. esculentus* L. by its much more slender culm.

2.—*Scirpus Torreyi* Olney: Collected at St.-Eustache, P.Q., in the Ottawa River, near the outlet of the Lake of Two-Mountains. This large Bulrush belongs to the group of common *Scirpus Americanus* Pers. Up to the present time, the northern limit of *Scirpus Torreyi* was not supposed to intersect the boundary line between Canada and United States. The present discovery would lead us to conclude that it occurs throughout the waterways of western Quebec. *Scirpus Torreyi* fruits later than any other tall Bulrush in the east. In early August, the St-Eustache specimens were yet poorly developed though sufficiently mature to permit certain identification.

3.—*Scirpus pedicellatus* Fernald: St-Bruno, P.Q. In clearings, on peat, August, 1912. Recently separated by Prof. Fernald, of the Gray Herbarium.,

4.—*Scirpus atrocinctus* Fernald: Alluvial banks, Lake Nominingue, P.Q., August, 1912. Also recently separated. Will prove abundant in Quebec. Many herbarium specimens labelled *S. cyperinus* are likely this species.

5.—*Scirpus atrocinctus* Fernald, var. *brachypodus* Fernald. Châteauguay, P.Q., July, 1912. Spikelets in dense, irregular clusters, the boreal form of the species.

6.—*Scirpus cyperinus* (L) Kunth, var. *pelius* Fernald. Alluvial banks, Lake Nominingue, P.Q., August, 1912. Growing intermingled with *S. atrocinctus*. The very long involucre bracts characterize the species as does the deep colour of the involucels for the variety. The plant begins to fruit when *S. atrocinctus* is already mature.

7.—*Scirpus subterminalis* Torr.: Aquatic, nearly submerged species. First collected in 1908, in Megantic Co. (Nat. Can. XXXVI, No. 5; mai, 1909). Found again in a small lake near St-Jerome, Terrebonne Co. This interesting species must range throughout Quebec.

That further investigation will add much to our knowledge of the Cyperaceæ in Quebec, is beyond doubt. More material, however, and a close study of collections already made, are necessary before a complete treatment of the subject can be undertaken.



Marie-Victorin. 1913. "Notes on the occurrence of interesting forms of Cyperaceae in Quebec." *The Ottawa naturalist* 27(1), 15-16.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/18024>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/369294>

Holding Institution

MBLWHOI Library

Sponsored by

MBLWHOI Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.