

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

During the year numerous exchanges and other publications have been received and placed in proper position. Thirty two complete sets of back numbers of "THE NATURALIST" from the time of its inception, 1879, to the present time have been arranged and stored in a cupboard easy of access. This exhausts all copies of certain months but leaves a large number of copies of other months. By this arrangement considerable new space will be secured in the Library room.

For a number of years no apportionment has been made for the binding of publications. I beg to suggest that it would be wise to revive this custom as regards the most valuable exchanges. It might also be well in view of the limited number of back copies of "THE NATURALIST" to formulate a more careful plan of distribution than in the past.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. B. SINCLAIR.

Ottawa, Mar. 14th, 1899.

Librarian.

BOTANICAL NOTES.

Edited by DR. JAS. FLETCHER.

GENTIANA SERRATA.—In the autumn of 1897 several specimens of this interesting plant were found and identified by Miss Mary Nagle, teacher of School Section No. 6, Huntley, to whom belongs the credit of being first to locate the plant in the Ottawa district.

While travelling from Stittsville toward Ashton on Sept. 14th, 1898, the writer discovered a colony of many hundred specimens growing near the roadside in wet sandy soil, a congenial habitat for this plant. The rich blue and the ciliate fringed margins of the corolla render the "fringed gentian" one of the loveliest of our native plants.

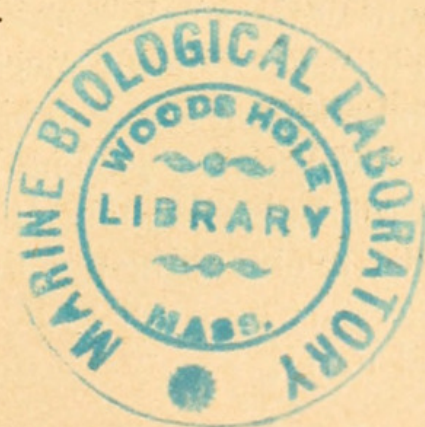
VERBASCUM BLATTARIA.—In the summer of 1891 a small colony of Moth Mullein was noted in an old pasture on Lot 33, Ottawa Front about half a mile west of Mechanicsville. Though

this locality has been visited regularly every summer the above-mentioned plant has not been observed since 1891 until last summer when several sturdy colonies, some of them hundreds of yards apart, were found in an excellent state of bloom. The flowers were the pale yellow variety with purple markings. The best specimens were about four feet high.

INTRODUCED PLANTS. Three plants evidently introduced from the North West, *Helianthus rigidus*, *Lepachy's columnaris*, and *Grindelia squarrosa*, were reported by the Botanical Section in 1891, as having been found near the old Eddy Mill-sight at Birchton. Only the last of the three appears to have persisted. Since 1891 *Grindelia squarrosa* has spread over a considerable area. The bright yellow flowers and a profuse resinous, viscid coating are conspicuous features of this thrifty plant.

ARALIA QUINQUEFOLIA.—On October 7th, 1898, several fine plants of this species were obtained near an old roadway on the Chats Island, but in all cases the fruit had already disappeared. In the Autumn of 1897 a party of Indians sold about sixteen pounds of the roots of this Ginseng in Fitzroy Harbor. They stated that they obtained a considerable quantity of them on the Chats Island.—R. H. COWLEY.

VIOLA CUCULLATA.—Our knowledge of the local distribution of the six species of the *V. cucullata* group enumerated in the January number of The OTTAWA NATURALIST is yet far from complete. The admirable illustrations, which were published at the same time, will enable the youngest amateur botanist to determine the several species providing care be taken to collect flowers and summer fruit from the same locality, and so carefully as to preclude the possibility of mistakes. Three of the species are known from but one locality while the other three are of more general distribution.—J. M. M.





Fletcher, James. 1899. "Botanical Notes." *The Ottawa naturalist* 13(1), 22–23.

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