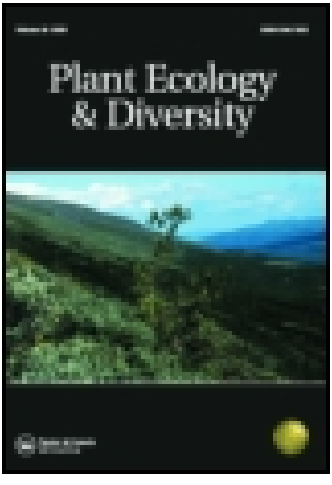
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I. On the plentiful occurrence of Buxbaumia aphylla (Haller) in Aberdeenshire

William Sutherland M.A.

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Mr John Dawson, Alloa, sent specimens of a beetle (*Rhagium bifasciatum*), the larvæ of which are destroying the Scottish fir trees in various parts of the country. Mr Dawson also sent a specimen of a diseased state of silver fir, accompanied by the following note :—" A piece of bark of silver fir, infested by some sort of insect or fungus. The disease may be common enough, but is new here, and has made a good deal of noise in the quarter. A great many trees (silver firs alone) are affected by it, and their growth injured or destroyed. Cutting down and burning the trees are the remedial means employed " Mr W. R. M'Nab, who had examined the specimen, reported it to be a species of Coccus, and allied to *Coccus fagi*. The insect is of a dark red colour, oval in shape, and very small. When the contents of its body are squeezed out, a red molecular fluid appears to fill up the cavity, which in a few minutes assumes a green colour when exposed to the air.

Mr William Gorrie exhibited a flower and foliage of *Rhododendron Nuttalli*, from the greenhouse of Messrs P. Lawson & Sons, Golden Acre. The plant, which is at present in full flower, is about 8 feet high, 3 feet in circumference, and bears three umbellate heads, each composed of eight flowers, which measure 5 inches in width by about 5 in depth.

Dr Macgowan exhibited and presented to the Museum a Japanese broom made of bamboo and the fibres of *Chamærops Fortuni*.

8th May 1862.—Professor BALFOUR, V.P., in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were duly elected Resident Fellows of the Society :—

EDWARD HOGGAN, Esq.
EDWIN C. P. FOX, Esq.
HENRY JAMES, Esq.
STEPHEN C. MACKENZIE, Esq.

The following donations to the Society's Library were laid on the table :—

Synopsis Filicum Africæ Australis. By Dr Pappe.—From Mr James G. Reid.

Sylva Capensis, or a Description of South African Forest Trees and Shrubs used for technical and economical purposes. By Dr Pappe.—From the same.

Floræ Capensis Medicæ Prodromus. By Dr Pappe.—From the same.

Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Canada.—From the Society.

The following Communications were read :—

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I. *On the plentiful occurrence of* Buxbaumia aphylla (*Haller*) *in Aberdeenshire.* By WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, M.A.

The suspicion entertained by many muscologists that this interesting moss is of far more general occurrence, in favourable situations, than the paucity of stations hitherto given for it would indicate, has lately received ample confirmation in this district. Mr Wilson in his "Bryologia" gives twelve localities, two of which are in England. Since the species was many years ago recorded by Mr Jackson as found "near Aberdeen," two additional localities have been discovered in our country; first, some years ago, but very sparingly, near Ballater, by Mr Cruickshank, and last year in great abundance by Mr Coutts in various places on the hills in the parishes of Towie and Cushnie. These hills lie about thirty miles west of Ava, and about ten miles north of Ballater, the river Don flowing immediately to the north of them. In August last I had the pleasure of visiting the principal of these stations, which is situated in a slight depression near the northern summit of the range, and found that here, over a considerable space of ground, the heather had been recently burned, and had but very sparingly regained its footing. In the bare places, and little ledges of peat, all over this tract, the Buxbaumia occurred in more or less abundance, either singly or in groups of from two to six, while, besides the fully-formed capsules, I noticed many little green ones just appearing above ground, cylindrical in form, and with somewhat of the general appearance of a *Splachnum*. On the 12th November last I had occasion to examine two pieces of turf, each $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 foot in surface area, which had been sent to Professor Dickie, and on one of these were no less than 49 specimens *in situ*, while the immature capsules seen in August had all attained the normal shape and size, but still remained green in colour. From this circumstance I am inclined to think that this species begins to fruit in the summer or early autumn months, and is not fully ripe until the next spring, having spent the intervening winter under a mantle of snow.

II. *On the occurrence of* Isoetes echinospora (*Durieu*), *in Scotland.* By WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, M.A.

One of the most interesting botanical localities near Aberdeen has always been the Loch of Drum (or Park), and now it has the additional attraction of being at present the only station known in Scotland for the new species of *Isoetes*, recently established or proposed by M. Durieu. Although Professor Babington has had under examination specimens of this genus from most of the Scotch localities, all these were found to belong to *I. lacustris*, with the exception of the few specimens sent by me, and which had been collected in the Loch of Drum; although it is worthy of remark that the commoner species also grows there, and that, too, probably in greater abundance. It appears that the intended monograph on *Isoetes* by M. Durieu has not yet been published, and therefore no detailed description can be referred to at present,* though no doubt can be entertained of the fact of its occurrence here, as judging from a specimen sent him by Professor Babington, he has given the Loch of Park as a new station for it, in a recent number of the *Bulletin de la Soc. Botanique de France*. Professor Babington has found the species in Wales. It differs from *I. lacustris* in its generally smaller size, more spreading and robust habit, and yellowish green colour. I take the liberty of giving Professor Babington's general description of the spores, as kindly com-

* The plant is now described in Professor Babington's Manual. Fifth edition, just published.