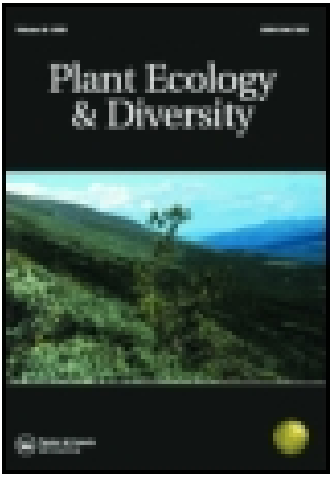
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VII. Notes on Pinus cephalonica, and other Coniferæ, at Craigo House, Montrose

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V. *On the Injurious Effects of* Uroceras gigas *on Fir Trees.* By Alexander Thomson, Esq., Banchory.

The author stated that last summer his forester had observed a Scotch fir tree about thirty-five years old die very suddenly. The tree was cut down and taken to the sawmill. During the preparation of the wood a large fly was observed in a burrow in the wood. Subsequently another fly, a grub, and the remains of a cocoon were seen. The insect was examined, and found to be the *Uroceras gigas.* It has been rarely noticed in Scotland. It appears, however, that in Germany it often causes great destruction in the forests. If there be any appearance of the insect spreading in this country, it would be well to draw further attention to it, so that every tree showing symptoms of it might be destroyed. This is the only remedy found of use in Germany, where they say hundreds of acres have been sacrificed on one estate after another, with the view of checking its progress. Specimens of the timber and of the insect were exhibited, along with a piece of foreign timber containing a grub of a similar nature.

VI. *On the Occurrence of the Seeds of Bearded Darnel in Inferior Samples of Wheat.* By George S. Lawson.

VII. *Notes on* Pinus cephalonica, *and other Coniferæ, at Craigo House, Montrose.* By P. S. Robertson, Golden Acres Nursery.

Mr Robertson read a notice of a large number of plants of *Pinus cephalonica*, which are growing at Craigo House, about three miles from the sea, on dry sandy soil which overlies soft freestone rock, and in the vicinity of limestone. The trees had all been raised from seed by the late Thomas Carnegie, Esq., and planted by him about eighteen years ago. They appeared to be in perfect health, making growths of 12 to 15 inches each year; a good many having now attained to 12 and 15 feet in height. In the same pinetum are good plants of *Pinus nobilis*, *P. grandis*, and *P. Nordmanniana* from 7 to 10 feet in height; *P. Menziesii*, 36 feet;

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variegated Norway spruce, 27 feet; and *Araucaria imbricata*, 22 feet in height; all of which are thriving well. In the same collection, a large number of nearly all the more recently introduced conifers have been planted, but they have not been sufficiently tested to be fully reported on as to their ultimate success. Meanwhile, they promise well, and the collection is a most valuable one, as showing what species of conifers thrive on the east coast, and at a low elevation.

VIII. *Remarks on the Effects of Lightning upon Larch Trees.*

By John Lowe, M.D.

During the violent storm which occurred on the 7th August last, a larch tree, standing in a field at the west end of the village of Fortingal, was struck by lightning. Commencing about a yard from the summit, the electric fluid passed in a spiral direction down the trunk, making five and a-half coils in its descent, and peeling off the bark to the breadth of five or six inches. Half-way down the tree the current appears to have been divided by an intervening branch, and from this point the spiral coil is double, diverging as it nears the base, where one of the currents has passed into the earth to the west and the other to the east side after having thrown down a portion of stone wall which opposed its progress. At the point of entrance of this current the earth was torn up, and a large opening left. Another larch, about a mile to the east of Fortingal, was struck in a similar manner, and on the same evening. The cause of these not having been splintered, as is commonly the case with other trees, is probably owing to their tapering form being better adapted for conducting the fluid, without affording any direct points of opposition to its course. The large size of the branches in other trees, and the acute angles which they form with the stem, is an obvious cause of their being more frequently splintered. The direction of the currents in the present instance was most likely caused by the spiral course of the woody fibre, which is well seen in the fir, and especially when grown in open situations.

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