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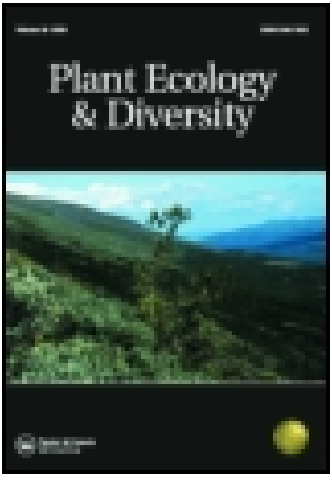

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I. *On the plentiful occurrence of* Buxbaumia aphylla (*Haller*) *in Aberdeenshire.* By WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, M.A.

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.

municated to me:—"If you look at the larger spores in a dry state, and before they have been removed from the cases in which they lie, you will see that they are covered with very fine spines; in *I. lacustris* they bear blunt but rather high tubercles. The spines, and indeed the tubercles also, are so easily broken that they seldom remain perfect upon spores removed from their case."

III. *Notes on Cuckoo-flowers and the Cuckoo-spit.* By James Hardy, Esq., Penmanshiel.

The Cuckoo's garland consists of several ingredients. They have not been investigated, and what I now present is their first assemblage. The true Cuckoo-flower is *Cardamine pratensis*, the pink or wild rocket of the Borders. "These flower for the most part in April," says Gerard (Herball, p. 261), "when the cuckowe doth begin to sing her pleasant notes without stammering." Stillingfleet says that in 1755 the cuckoo called on the 17th, and the cuckoo-flower was in blow on the 19th of April. The name "Flos-cuculi" is traced to Otto Brunfels, 1536, adapted from the "Gauchblume" and "Kukucks-bluhme" of the Germans. It appears in English, in Lyte's translation of Dodonæus, 1578, as "Coccow flower." The Flemish name is "Cocockbloem," or "Coeckoecbloem." It is "Göge blomster" in Danish, according to S. Paulli; "Blodeuyn y gôg" in Welsh, but this is modern. "Lychnis Flos-cuculi" is another cuckoo-flower, derived from a German source,—the "Cuculi flos Germanis" of Tragus, 1552. J. Bauhin (Hist. Plant. iii. 348) says the Germans call it "Gauch-blum," "Kuckuck-blumen," and the French, "Fleur du coquu." The Flemish is "Coeckcoeckbloemkens," and Lyte translates it "Cockow gillofers." In the county of Durham, I found "Gilloflowers" was a common name for *Cardamine pratensis*. In Welsh it is "Blodau 'r gôg." Shakspeare's Cuckoo-flower, in the mock coronet of the mad Lear, must have been a cereal weed.

> "Crown'd with rank fumiters and furrow weeds,
> With harlocks, hemlock, nettles, cuckoo-flowers,
> Darnel, and all the idle weeds that grow in corn."

The "Cuckoo-flower" of Clare, Miss Baker thinks (Northamptonshire Words and Phrases, i. p. 164) is the red-flowered campion, *Lychnis dioica*.

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