PLANT NOTES

6/10(2)b. **Ranunculus marginatus** Urv., 1822, *Enum.*, 62, var. **trachycarpus** (Fisch. & Mey.) Aznavour, 1902, *Magyar Bot. Lapok*, **1**, 297; Hayek, 1924, *Prodr. Fl. Penins. Balcan.*, **1**, 343. *R. trachycarpus* Fisch. & Mey., 1835, *Ind. 3, Hort. Petrop.*, 46; Boiss., 1867, *Fl. Orient.*, **1**, 55; Hegi, 1912, *Ill. Fl. Mittel-Europa*, **3**, 541.

34, W. Gloucester; rubbish-tip by Portway, Avon Gorge below Bristol, May 1950, C. I. and N. Y. SANDWITH.

Native of the Near and Middle East. Resembling *R. sardous* Cr., but immediately distinguished by the carpels being terminated at the apex by a conspicuous triangular or lanceolate beak at least 1 mm. long and sometimes slightly curved. Plant nearly glabrous. Smallest lowest leaves often entire and crenate, next lowest deeply and broadly 3-lobed. Sepals reflexed. Petals of medium size, two or three times as long as the sepals. Carpels with the disk filled with tubercles. Typical *R. marginatus* is a hairy plant with smooth carpels.—N. Y. SANDWITH.

45/7. COCHLEARIA DANICA L. The first inland record of this species in Britain appears to be in 1946 when D. E. Allen and E. C. Wallace both recorded it on railway ballast near Rugby (1949, *Report of the Rugby School Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **1948**, 17, and 1948, *Rep. Bot. Soc. & E.C.*, **13**, 284). In 1947 it was recorded by J. G. Dony in a similar habitat in Bedfordshire (1949, *Watsonia*, **1**, 38).

The following year I met with the plant, also on railway ballast, at Hamstead, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, this find constituting the third new county record. How long it had been in that place I have no means of verifying, for I found it on my first visit to that particular area.

I have visited the area each year since and details of the plant's distribution at Hamstead can be summarised as follows:

1948. Abundant on ballast of railway track. Some plants on cinders beside track and a few on oily heaps of coal waste which supported no other vegetation.

1949. No plants on ballast of track. Extensive spraying with weed killer was the cause of this disappearance. The few remaining plants were on the oily heaps mentioned before and had colonised similar heaps a hundred yards or so to the north.

1950. Although the species had extended its range again to the north the plants were scarcer and more scattered than before. All but one of the plants were on similar habitats to the previous year, the exception being in a fissure of the rocks with which the lower part

of the railway cutting was lined. This one was the most northerly specimen seen and the habitat seemed to be eminently suitable.

1951. This year it was noticed with disappointment that most of the colonies on the heaps were absent and that the ballast was still free of the species. However, the estimation of a suitable habitat had evidently been correct, for the rocky face where we had seen one plant had many plants upon it. Similar rocky faces in the next hundred yards to the north were also well clothed with these plants and one can feel reasonably certain that *Cochlearia danica* will be found in Hamstead for many years to come.

It is interesting to note that these inland plants of *C. danica* seem to be associated with *Cerastium tetrandrum* Curt. for I have found them both at Hamstead and they have been recorded together from the Rugby district (see 1951, *Report of the Rugby School Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **1950**, 28).—V. JACOBS.

64/3. THLASPI ALPESTRE L. On June 12th, 1949, during the B.S.B.I. Field Meeting in Breadalbane, an expedition, under the leadership of Miss M. S. Campbell and myself, re-discovered *Thlaspi alpestre* L. growing on limestone on Beinn a-Chuallaich at an altitude of approximately 2,000 feet above sea level—a colony of about 50 plants was found in a very small area.

On June 25th, 1949, my son and I, acting on rough instructions from the finders of the plant, ascended Beinn a-Chuallaich and without much difficulty found the colony before discovered, which contained upwards of 50 plants. There were still a few flower spikes visible and one or two with seed capsules containing unripe seed. Continuing uphill (in a northerly direction) we discovered a second colony, also consisting of upward of 50 plants, within a short distance of the first. Many of the plants in both colonies were growing on the turf and not on rock. The area occupied by both colonies is of very small extent, forming a narrow strip of perhaps 40 yards by 10 yards. Prolonged search failed to discover any trace of the plant outside this circumscribed locality.

On September 9th, 1949, I again visited the locality to show the plant to Mr. John Raven. We inspected both colonies and found one or two dead spikes, the capsules of which had discharged their seeds. Mr. Raven examined various likely looking places in the neighbourhood of the locality but failed to find any more plants.

On June 10th, 1950, I visited the locality by myself. On the limestone rock I found one very fine plant with 5 flower spikes about 2″ to 2½″ high, also a few smaller plants in flower. In the upper colony I found a large plant covered with flower heads at ground level that had not produced stalks. I was unable again to visit the locality and inspect this plant when it had attained its full stature. I feel sure that it would have proved the finest plant of the colony. It was not growing on rock but on bare soil.

The following species were associated with the *Thlaspi*:—*Viola Riviniana* Reichb., *Cerastium vulgatum* L., *Sagina procumbens* L., *Potentilla erecta* (L.) Raeusch., *Alchemilla glabra* Neygenf., *Saxifraga aizoides* L., *S. oppositifolia* L., *Bellis perennis* L., *Campanula rotundifolia* L., *Vaccinium Vitis-idaea* L., *Armeria maritima* L., *Thymus Drucei* Ronn., *Koeleria gracilis* Pers. (agg.), *Poa annua* L., *Festuca ovina* L., *Botrychium Lunaria* L., *Selaginella selaginoides* (L.) Link.

The presence of some of these (e.g. *Sagina* and *Poa*) was due to some of the plants of *Thlaspi* growing in the mouth of a rabbit hole.

A soil analysis gave pH=7.64 (determined from air-dried soil with a glass electrode) and $CaCO_3$ content 63.725%.—T. E. D. POORE.

141(2)/1. **Koelreuteria paniculata** Laxmann, 1772, *Nov. Comm. Acad.* Petrop., **16**, 561. 35, Monmouth; waste ground opposite the Rectory, Tintern, 1947, E. M. FRANCIS. A deciduous tree from 30 to 60 feet high. Leaves alternate, pinnate or bipinnate, with 7 to 15 coarsely toothed leaflets; leaflets ovate, 1 to 4 inches long, glabrous above, pubescent beneath. Flowers yellow, about ½ inch wide, in broad, loose terminal panicles; panicles up to 12 inches long; calyx deeply and unequally 5-lobed; petals four; stamens eight. Fruit an oblong-ovoid, inflated, three-valved capsule, 1½ to 2 inches long; seeds dark brown, about the size of peas. Native of China, introduced into England in 1763.—A. E. WADE.

†155/44(2). **Trifolium Petrisavii** Clementi, 1855, *Sertulum Orientale*, 32, pl. 7, fig. 2; Boissier, 1872, *Fl. Orient.*, **2**, 144; Aschers. et Graebn., 1907, *Syn. Mitteleurop. Fl.*, **6**, Abth. 2, 490; Hayek, 1926, *Prodr. Fl. Penins. Balcan.*, **1**, 853.

T. hygrophilum Boiss., 1856, *Diagn. Pl. Nov., Ser.* **2**, 2, 18; *T. nigrescens* Viv. subsp. *Petrisavii* (Clem.) Holmboe, 1914, *Studies on vegetation of Cyprus*, 116.

34, W. Gloucester; rubbish-tip by Portway, Avon Gorge below Bristol, June 1950, C. I. and N. Y. SANDWITH. An annual, with decumbent growth and solid stems. Stipules loose, membraneous-scarious, with a broad and nearly truncate or triangular apex which is abruptly contracted into a long subulate point. Leaflets obovate, obovate-elliptic or obcordate, rounded, obtuse or truncate at the apex, cuneate to the base, strongly nerved, sharply toothed especially in the upper half, the teeth ending in fine cusps. Heads numerous, solitary from the leaf-axils, on peduncles exceeding the leaves, 1.5-2 cm. diam. Flowers more or less coloured with rose or mauve. Pedicels much shorter than the whole calyx, but equalling or somewhat exceeding its tube. Calyx-teeth unequal, the upper as long as or somewhat exceeding the tube. Corolla exceeding the calyx by one half. Native of the Near and Middle East.

Closely allied to *T. nigrescens* Viv., which is more widely distributed over the Mediterranean Region, and differing from it especially in the more dense-flowered heads of coloured (not white) corollas which are shorter in relation to the calyx (not twice as long), and in the 2 ovules

of the ovary (*T. nigrescens* normally has 4 ovules). The flowers of the British specimens were pale mauve-white. They bore no mature fruit but several dissected flowers showed 2 ovules, rarely 3 with the uppermost abortive. The fruit of *T. Petrisavii* is described as 2-seeded, whereas that of *T. nigrescens* is 4-seeded. *T. hybridum* and *T. elegans* are at once distinguished by their perennial habit, the shape of their stipules, and their more finely toothed leaflets. I am indebted to Mr. B. L. Burtt for confirming my identification of this rather critical clover.—N. Y. SANDWITH.

†368/3(2). **Anthemis hyalina** DC., 1838, *Prodr.*, **6**, 4; Boissier, 1875. *Fl. Orient.*, **3**, 307.

34, W. Gloucester; rubbish-tip by Portway, Avon Gorge below Bristol, June 1950, C. I. and N. Y. SANDWITH.

Native of the Near and Middle East, from Asia Minor to Syria, Mesopotamia and Persia. An annual, more or less greyish-pubescent on stems and leaves, similar to *A. arvensis* in general facies, but immediately distinguished by the phyllaries, which are broad and very obtuse, very broadly and conspicuously hyaline-scarious and shining in the upper part, usually more or less tinted with brown, especially in the lower part. Leaf-segments acute or shortly awned. Heads about the size of those of *A. arvensis*. Ligules white, fertile. Scales of receptacle lanceolate, carinate.—N. Y. SANDWITH.

506/9. MYOSOTIS COLLINA (Ehrh.) Hoffm. G. F. Hoffmann (1791, *Deutschlands Flora oder Botanisches Taschenbuch*, 61) published *Myosotis collina*, citing Ehrhart, *Herb.*, 51, which was issued under the name *Myosotis scorpioides collina* without a description. Hoffmann's diagnosis "*Calyc. patulis, fol. caespitosis hirsutis, caule nudo*," is too brief to enable one to identify the plant intended, but recourse to Ehrhart's exsiccata, No. 51, shows the latter to be the plant subsequently named *Myosotis versicolor* (Pers.) Sm. H. G. L. Reichenbach (in Sturm, 1822, *Deutschlands Flora*, Heft 42, No. 11) seems to have been the first author to interpret the name *M. collina* in the sense in which it has been generally used. Mertens and Koch (1826, *Deutschlands Flora*, 2, 47) adopted the name *M. hispida* Schlechtendal, citing as synonyms *M. collina* Reichb. and *M. scorpioides collina* Ehrh. They state that they give preference to *M. hispida* Schlecht. on the grounds that *M. collina* Hoffm. is somewhat ambiguous, since the example of Ehrhart's *Herb.* No. 51 which they had seen was *M. versicolor*, and suggest that Ehrhart may not have distinguished the two species, and that other examples of his exsiccata may prove to be *M. hispida*. Many continental authors have adopted this point of view and have considered *M. collina* Hoffm. to be a *nomen dubium*. It is unlikely that Ehrhart issued more than one species as *M. scorpioides collina*. I have seen three examples of Ehrhart's *Herb.* No. 51 from different herbaria and they all appear to form part of the same gathering.

Hoffmann (*loc. cit.*) gives under *M. arvensis* a var. *minor*. There is no description but he cites Bulliard, *Herbier de la France*, t. 355a. This figure is a good one and clearly represents the plant subsequently described by Schlechtendal as *M. hispida* Schlecht. (*M. collina* auct.). It is therefore evident that Hoffman distinguished between the two species.

From the foregoing *M. collina* (Ehrh.) Hoffm. is clearly synonymous with *M. versicolor* (Pers.) Sm. The correct name for the plant called *M. collina* by Reichenbach and many subsequent authors is *M. hispida* Schlechtendal sen., 1817, *Mag. Ges. Naturf. Freunde Berlin*, **8**, 230.

Although the original application of the name is not in doubt, it is recommended that the name *Myosotis collina* be rejected as a *nomen ambiguum* under Article 62 of the International Rules, since it has been used with different meanings.

The varieties given in *B.P.L.* should stand as follows:—

b. *Mittenii* (Baker) Airy Shaw in Riddelsdell, Hedley & Price, 1948, *Fl. Glos.*, 343, 625.

c. *Lebelii* (Gren. & Godr.) Rouy, 1908, *Fl. France*, **10**, 328. (*M. collina* β *Lebelii* (Gren. & Godr.) Corb., 1893, *Nouv. Fl. Norm.*, 407).—A. E. WADE.

569/3×5. **Nepeta** × **Faasenii** Bergmans ex Stearn. A recent article by W. T. Stearn (1950, *J. Roy. Hort. Soc.*, **75**, 403-406) draws attention to the fact that the plant commonly known to gardeners as *Nepeta Mussinii* is not the true plant. *N. Mussinii* Spreng., now rarely seen in cultivation, is a low prostrate plant with broadly ovate cordate leaves (up to 2.1 cm. broad, ratio length: breadth =3:2) and a short inflorescence. The catmint so popular in gardens nowadays is bushier with ascending branches, lanceolate to narrow-ovate leaves (length: breadth =3:1), and a long inflorescence. Bergmans (1939, *Vaste Planten*, ed. 2, 544) and Floto (1944, *Gartner-Tidende*, **60**, 450) have independently shown it to be an infertile triploid (2n=26), and it appears to have arisen as a spontaneous garden hybrid between true *N. Mussinii* (2n=18) and *N. Nepetella* (2n=34). It receives the name *N.* × *Faasenii* Bergmans (loc. cit., e descr. lat) ex Stearn (loc. cit.).

It seemed probable that most of the British records for *N. Mussinii* as an adventitive might actually refer to *N.* × *Faasenii*, and this proved to be the case. The following herbarium specimens are *N.* × *Faasenii*: —3, S. Devon; Sidbury, 1936, *J. W. Wyatt* (Hb. Kew). 6, N. Som.; Weston-super-Mare, 1922, *R. L. Smith* (Hb. Druce, Oxford). 69b, N. Lancs.; near Dalton-in-Furness, 1913, *D. Lumb* (ibid.).

The wild Siberian material of *N. Mussinii* at Kew shows quite a wide range of variation, but the following British specimens can be matched with forms of the true plant:—34, W. Glos.; Bristol, 1928, *G. C. Druce* (Herb. Oxford). "Scotland", 1926, Miss *A. Grasseman* (Hb. S. London Bot. Inst., as *N. nuda* L.).—D. P. YOUNG.

650/8B. SALIX CAPREA subsp. **sericea** (Andersson) Floderus, 1926, in Lindman, *Svensk Fan.-fl.*, ed. 2, 210. *S. caprea* [var.] *sericea* An-

dersson, 1867, *Monogr. Sal.*, 78. *S. caprea* var. *coaetanea* Hartman, 1838, *Handb.*, ed. 3, 236. *S. coaetanea* (Hartm.) Floderus, 1930, *Bot. Not.*, **1930**, 331.

Rechinger (1949, *Watsonia*, **1**, 154) suggests that this plant is probably British and includes it in his key. I am now able to confirm that it undoubtedly occurs in Britain. There are two specimens in Herb. Druce, Oxford University:—89, E. Perth; Glen Shee, 7th August 1883, *H. E. Fox.* 90, Forfar; Glen Phee, August 1916, *G. C. Druce*, which, though sterile, are certainly referable here. They agree well both with the description and with specimens I collected in Swedish Lapland last summer.

The subspecies is recognisable by its narrower buds without recurved tip, narrower obovate or obovate-elliptic cuneate-based leaves with persistent appressed silky hairs on the upper surface and by the absence of stipules. I am unable to see any marked difference in either the number or direction of the veins in either the Scottish or the Swedish specimens when compared with subsp. *caprea* and the tomentum of the twigs though more marked when young than in subsp. *caprea* is not persistent on the previous year's twigs in either set of specimens (though, as all were gathered in August, this does not necessarily mean that it does not persist through the winter). I have not been able to compare the floral characters.

I prefer to regard the plant as a subsp. of *S. caprea* rather than a distinct species as intermediates appear to occur. Thus many Scottish and southern Swedish plants of subsp. *caprea* have obovate leaves. It appears, however, to be a well-marked geographical race of *S. caprea* and deserving of subspecific rank. The possible identity of the plant with *S. sphacelata* Sm., 1804, *Fl. Brit.*, 1066, needs further study.—E. F. Warburg.

†726(2)/1. **Lysichitum americanum** Hult. & St. John, 1931, *Svensk Bot. Tidskr.*, **25**, 455. *L. camtschatcense* auct. amer. pro parte. Acaulescent robust herb with a thick peppery rhizome. Plant 3-15 dm. tall, leaves very large, erect or ascending, glabrous, oblong-lanceolate, acute, narrowed below to a sessile base or short petiole. Spathe 10-18 cm. long with a broad acute blade, yellowish. Spadix cylindrical, 3.5-11 cm. long, greenish-yellow, on a stout peduncle becoming 3-5 dm. long. Flowers foetid. Berries greenish, in a spike. A native of swampy scrub and woodland from Alaska and British Columbia southwards through Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana to California.

24, Bucks.; naturalized in a swamp at Black Park, west of Uxbridge, 1950. I have also seen the following British material in Herb. Mus. Brit. 17, Surrey; marshy ground near Haslemere, 1947, *C. E. Gascoyne*; Chobham, Woking, 1948, *Ethel Hackney*.—D. H. Kent.

787/1. Ammophila arenaria (L.) Link. The useful property of this grass in retaining the encroachment of sand has been so well known for four or five centuries and its use so often recommended for the purpose

that it is probably difficult to say where, if anywhere, it is native in these islands. It grows abundantly over the 2000 acres of sand dune at Perranporth and looks quite native but a letter preserved in the Archives of Exeter Cathedral shows that it was originally planted there. The letter was written in 1704 by the Rev. John Hosken, Vicar of Perranzabuloe, to counter a petition by the Churchwardens and a number of parishioners asking permission to change the site of the church on account of the encroachment of sand, and states that " the thick grass planted in the sand " was checking the encroachment. The late Edgar Thurston once told me, on what authority I do not know, that Cornish marram grass was originally imported from Holland.—F. RILSTONE.

872/2. NITELLA TENUISSIMA Kütz. This inconspicuous charophyte has only been found in three limited areas in England and two in Ireland, viz., W. Norfolk (Lopham Great Fen), Cambridgeshire (various localities near Wicken), Anglesey (two localities) and in Ireland, Westmeath (two localities) and Galway, N.E. So far as I know the last record for it was twenty years ago.

From his diary I find that on 23rd September 1897 Canon Bullock-Webster found some small pieces in the extreme south-east corner of Lopham Great Fen though he did not realize this till on getting home he found it adhering to the roots of a clump of *C. aspera* Willd. Four days later he visited the spot again specially for it and after nearly three hours search secured some good specimens, but on 9th June 1898, accompanied by Groves, he only succeeded in finding one small piece, adhering as before to the roots of *C. aspera*. Entries of visits on 5th July 1899 and 25th June 1901 made no mention of it.

From 1895 to 1904 Bullock-Webster found this species, sometimes in great quantity, in the Wicken area. Two entries in July 1922 recorded his still finding it in Wicken Lode but in very small quantities.

Anglesey records are for 1882 and 1884 and the Irish ones for 1892 and 1904.

A new Norfolk locality for this rare plant is therefore of special interest. Dr. C. West kindly sent me some fresh material that his friend, Mr. G. H. Rocke, had found on Foulden Common near Stoke Ferry, W. Norfolk, on 27th August 1950, and also some more that they had collected on 10th September. The oogonia were not at that time fully developed, but on the plant being kept growing ripe oospores with their characteristic beaded reticulation of the membrane appeared in due course.

Dr. West told me there were a number of pools, more or less overgrown with *Cladium*, on the Common, but the *Nitella* was only found in one small pond, though in quantity there. It was growing on soft black peaty mud at a depth of about eighteen inches in association with *Chara desmacantha* Gr. & B.-W. and *C. delicatula* Ag. The plant is a particularly small form, resembling that recorded from Anglesey.—G. O. ALLEN.

876/5. CHARA HISPIDA L. L. W. Wilson and I found this growing freely at Worth Minnis near Sandwich, E. Kent. A local farmer told us that it was known there as "iron weed". He also mentioned that there was a ditch cleaner who had to give up when he came across this plant as it made his lips sweil up.—G. O. ALLEN.