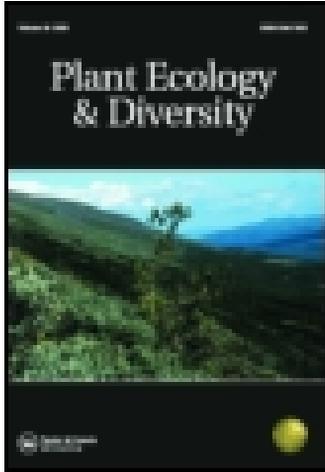


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Notes on Three Rare Carnarvonshire Plants

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plants raised is one of a most interesting and beautiful variety, the leaves being so covered with a hoary bloom, both above and on the under side, as to be almost white. Having been transplanted, it is only about half the size of the other. I have seen none at all like to it.

Roseneath, at the mouth of Gare Loch on the Clyde, is the most northern site where the gum trees have been tried with success. It is above the 56° of north latitude. It is a most beautiful parish, and in it there is no more lovely spot than that of the Established Church manse. Here the tallest tree in the world, the giant gum (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*, var. *regnans*) was planted in 1876. It grew famously till the winter of 1880-81, when very severe frost cut it to the ground. It sprouted again in the spring, and grew so quickly that, lest it should break, it was topped. It now is, however, 15 feet 4 inches in height and $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet in girth, both height and girth being taken at $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground, as it bifurcates just above this.

Near to the giant gum grows a specimen of the urn-bearing gum (*Eucalyptus urnigera*). It was planted a few years ago, and has had to contend with a squirrel which ate its bark, and a roedeer that ate its leaves, yet it is doing well, and, being more hardy, may yet overtop its giant neighbour.

I have thus given a full and exact account of the Australian and New Zealand plants known to me as growing in Arran and in the west of Scotland. This report I will not repeat for some time. Should I, or any one else, at the end of half-a-dozen years furnish your Society with another report, it is hoped that it will tell of great growth and development.

Notes on Three Rare Carnarvonshire Plants. By A. D.

WEBSTER.

(Read 11th November 1886.)

The three plants above referred to, and which from their rarity in this country I have considered worthy of the following brief remarks, are *Lloydia serotina*, *Cotoneaster vulgaris*, and *Potamogeton Griffithii*, none of which have been found wild in any other British county, and the last named is recorded only from one station at present.

Lloydia serotina (Reichb.), or, as it is commonly called, the Mountain Lloydia, is a small and fragile plant, that to the British botanist is of particular interest, not only from its extreme rarity, but as being one of the few lingering representatives of the lily family in this country. To those who have not seen living specimens of the plant, allow me, by throwing aside botanical parlance, to say that it may readily be recalled to mind by inserting a flower of Wallace's saxifrage (*Saxifraga Wallacei*) amongst the foliage of a month-old garden onion. Rarely have I seen the Lloydia of a greater height than about 4 inches, with two or three rounded leaves and a small white flower, the interior base of the perianth segments of which are marked with yellow.

The flower stem is usually shorter than the leaves, thread-like, delicate in appearance, and surmounted by a single flower. The bulb is small, club-shaped, and covered with greyish membranous scales. This pretty plant has several stations, three at least, in Carnarvonshire, and in one or two of these it is yet fairly abundant, although much less so than in years gone by, for the enthusiasm of collectors has caused this plant-relic of the glacier period in Wales to be hunted to the almost inaccessible crags and ravines of the wild Snowdon range of hills on which it occurs. Botanists need not mourn, however, over the chances of this rare plant being for many a year yet to come, if ever, expunged from our flora, for its inaccessible position ensures its safety. Extermination by the rude hands of plant collectors has caused it to disappear from various localities, hampers full having been collected, often at the peril of the individual's life. This is the more to be regretted, as it is well known that even under the most careful management it languishes and ultimately dies out. The favourite haunts of the Lloydia are the damp, not dripping, chinks and crevices of the almost perpendicular rocks, where thoroughly decayed vegetable matter is largely commingled with fine rocky débris. On one occasion I noticed several rather dwarf specimens growing on the almost rounded top of a huge lichen-covered boulder amongst the small quantity of soil that had from time to time accumulated on its ridged and rugged surface. It seems on the whole to prefer a northern aspect. Although when brought under cultivation Lloydia survives for a few years,

I have never known in a single instance flowers to be produced. I have carefully removed plants from their native haunts, with good balls of soil attached, and planted them in as natural positions as my garden afforded, but although they survived for several years (five in one instance), no flowers were ever produced, and such was likewise the case with several other experimenters of my acquaintance.

Cotoneaster vulgaris (Lindley).—Less than a dozen years ago this pretty shrub was fairly abundant on the cliffs of the Great Orme's Head, its only British station; but now, alas! its day is wellnigh past, for few specimens are to be met with even in a hard day's "working" of that beautiful headland. Growing from the crevices of the denuded limestone cliffs, and in company with *Epipactis ovalis*, this little shrub seems quite at home, and braves fearlessly both the cold sweeping blasts and scorching sunshine, to which at intervals the headland is fully exposed.

Under cultivation, *Cotoneaster* frequently attains a height of 5 feet, but here in its native wilds tortuous growing plants, of rarely more than half a foot high, are most commonly met with, though in some sheltered sunny nook they may attain a height of 12 inches. The fruit is reddish-tinted, small, and rarely produced in quantity.

Potamogeton Griffithii (A. Benn.), discovered by Mr J. E. Griffith, Bangor, in 1882, is an aquatic of particular interest, as, save in one locality in North Wales, it is not known to exist in a wild state. Llyn-on-Afon, or as it is better known by the name of Aber Lake, in which the plant is found, is a small tract of water in Mid-Carnarvonshire, at an elevation of some 1250 feet. It is almost entirely hemmed in between walls of rock, some of which rise so abruptly from the water's edge that, on scanning the lake from their tops, large irregular-sized patches of the *Potamogeton* may be distinctly seen through the clear water. The discovery of the plant is due to mere chance, for some fishermen, when following their vocation, had drawn some of the plants ashore with their lines, to which they had got entangled, and which shortly afterwards were noticed by Mr Griffith, and at once detected as a new species.

The soil at the lake's bottom, and amongst which the roots of this *Potamogeton* spread about freely, is composed of

decayed vegetable matter, largely mixed with gritty rock, that from time to time is washed down from the hills above by the force of the rivulets which feed the lake. Occurring in such plenty as to sometimes almost impede a boat's course, this proves that the plant, although local in its distribution, is yet fairly abundant in its one known station. Annihilate it botanists never can, for no boat is kept on that lonely lake, and when taken, as it occasionally is by its owner for fishing, it must be borne by half a dozen stout men for several miles, and over the roughest ground.

A good idea of this new plant can be formed by tying a portion of the stem and leaves of the North American *P. Claytonii* on that of *P. longifolius*, the floating leaves closely resembling those of the former, and the basal or submerged leaves those of the latter.

The stem is branched, and 5 to 6 feet long; lower leaves alternate, about 1 foot long; upper or floating leaves opposite, and usually about half the length of the submerged leaves; lower leaves amplexicaul, upper leaves with foot stalk as much as 5 inches long; spike fully an inch long by $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter, and remarkably close set. In the specimen accompanying these notes a good idea of the plant's general appearance may be obtained, but as it is destitute of flowers the above description must serve until opportunity allows of my procuring fresh specimens, which will be despatched to the Society's herbarium at once.

On a supposed New British Species of Sagina. By F.

BUCHANAN WHITE, M.D., F.L.S., F.E.S.

(Read 11th November 1886.)

Last August I received from Mr A. H. Evans, and afterwards from Mr W. B. Boyd himself, living specimens of a plant, with the information that it was supposed to be a *Sagina*, and to have been got on the Glen Callater hills, and that no one had been able to determine its name. The peculiar beauty of the plant itself, the possibility of its being a member of our own alpine flora, and the mystery attaching to it, combined to induce me to try to discover something about it, and I now lay the result of my investigations before the Society.