

*vided leaves.* Rhagadiolus alter. Cæfalp. 511. *Another Rhagadiolus.*

3. LAPSANA (*Lampsanæfoliis*) calycibus fructus undique patentibus, radiis subulatis, foliis lyratis. Hort. Upsal. 245. *Nipplewort with empalements to the fruit spreading open every way, awl-shaped rays, and harp-shaped leaves.* Rhagadiolus Lamplanæ foliis. Tourn. Cor. 36. *Rhagadiolus with a Nipplewort leaf.*

4. LAPSANA (*Zacintha*) calycibus fructus torulosis depressis obtusis sessilibus. Lin. Sp. Plant. 811. *Nipplewort with a depressed knotted empalement which is obtuse, and sits close to the branches.* Zacintha five cichorium verrucarium. Tourn. Inst. 476. *Zacintha, or warted Cichory.*

The first sort is a common weed, which grows by the side of foot-paths and hedges in most parts of England, so is not permitted to have room in gardens.

The second and third sorts grow naturally in Portugal, from whence I have received their seeds. These are annual plants, of no beauty or use, but are preserved in botanic gardens for the sake of variety. If the seeds of these are permitted to scatter, the plants will come up without trouble, and two or three of them will be enough to leave to keep the sorts.

The fourth sort grows naturally in Italy; this is also an annual plant, of neither use or beauty, but is like the others kept for variety. If the seeds of this sort scatter in the autumn, the plants will come up better than if sown in the spring. The plants require no culture, but will thrive like weeds.

- L A R I X, Tourn. Inst. R. H. 586. tab. 353. Pinus. Lin. Gen. Plant. 956. The Larch-tree; in French, *Melese.*

The CHARACTERS are,

*It hath male and female flowers growing separate on the same tree. The male flowers are disposed in a scaly katkin; these have no petal, but a great number of stamina which are connected in a column below, but are separated at their points, and are terminated by erect summits. The female flowers are disposed in a conical shape, having no petals; these are placed by pairs under each scale, having a small germen, supporting an awl-shaped style, crowned by a single stigma. The germen afterward becomes a nut with a membranous wing, inclosed in the scales of the cones.*

This genus of plants is ranged in the ninth section of Linnæus's twenty-first class, intitled Monœcia Monodelphia, the same tree having male and female flowers in different parts, and the stamina of the male flowers are united in one cluster. Dr. Linnæus has joined this genus, and the Abies of Tournefort, to the genus of Pinus, which, according to his system, may very well be brought together; but as Tournefort and all former botanists have separated them by the form of their leaves, those of the Abies coming out single from the branches, those of the Pine coming out by two, three, or five out of each sheath, and those of this genus arising in clusters in the bottom, but are spread above like a painter's pencil; so these distinctions being pretty generally known by gardeners, I have chosen to continue them under their former separate titles to prevent confusion.

The SPECIES are,

1. LARIX (*Decidua*) foliis deciduis, conis ovatis obtusis. *Larch-tree with deciduous leaves, and oval obtuse cones.* Larix folio deciduo, conifera. J. B. 1. p. 265. *Common Cone-bearing Larch-tree.*
2. LARIX (*Chinensis*) foliis deciduis, conis mucronatis squamis acutis. *Larch-tree with deciduous leaves, and pointed cones having acute scales.*
3. LARIX (*Cedrus*) foliis acutis perennantibus, conis obtusis. *Larch-tree with acute evergreen leaves and obtuse cones.* Cedrus conifera, foliis laricis. C. B. P. 490. *Cone-bearing Cedar with a Larch-tree leaf, or the Cedar of Lebanon.*

The first sort grows naturally upon the Alps and Apennines, and of late years has been very much propagated in England. This tree is of quick growth, and will rise to the height of fifty feet; the branches are slender, and their ends generally hang downward. These are garnished with long narrow leaves, which

arise in clusters from one point, and spread open above like the hairs of a painter's brush; they are of a light green, and fall away in autumn like other deciduous trees. In the month of April the male flowers appear, which are disposed in form of small cones; the female flowers are collected into oval obtuse cones, which in some species have bright purple tops, and in others they are white: these differences are accidental, for I have found the seeds taken from either of these varieties, will produce plants of both sorts; the cones are about one inch long, obtuse at their points, and the scales lie over each other, and are smooth; under each scale there is generally lodged two seeds which have wings.

There are two other varieties of this tree, one of which is a native of America, and the other of Siberia; the latter requires a colder climate than England, for they are very apt to die in summer here, especially if they are planted on a dry soil. The cones of this sort which have been brought to England, seem to be in general larger than those of the common kind; but there is so little difference between the trees in their characteristic notes, as not to be distinguished as different species, though by the growth of the trees there is a remarkable difference.

The cones of the second sort were sent from China, to the Right Hon. the Earl of Northumberland, who was so good as to communicate some of the seeds to me, which were sown in the Chelsea garden, where they succeeded, as they also did in his Lordship's garden at Stanwick. The cones of this sort were much larger than those of the common sort, and ended in acute points; the scales were prominent like those of the Scotch Pine, and had so little resemblance to those of the Larch, as that every one who saw them, imagined they were a sort of Pine; they were titled, Fir good to keep up banks. As these plants make but little progress the first year, so they were weak, and in the autumn casting off their leaves, they were supposed to be dead, and most of the plants were thereby lost; but those which escaped, afterward shot their branches out horizontally, spreading close to the ground, and by their present appearance, seem to be a shrub which never will rise upright. This sort is so hardy, as to thrive in the open air without any protection.

The common Larch is now very plenty in most of the nurseries in England, and of late years there has been great numbers of the trees planted; but those which have been planted in the worst soil and in bad situations, have thriven the best; for where trees of equal size have been planted in good garden earth at the same time, the others on the cold stiff land, have in twelve years been twice the height of those planted in good ground; which is an encouragement to plant these trees, since they will thrive in the most exposed situations, provided they are planted in clumps near each other, and not single trees; nor should the plants which are planted in very open exposed places be taken from warm nurseries, but rather raised as near to the spot where they are to remain as possible; nor should the plants be more than three or four years growth when planted, where they are designed to grow large; for though trees of greater size will remove very well, and grow several years as well as if they had not been transplanted; yet after twenty or thirty years growth they will frequently fail, where the young planted trees have continued very vigorous.

These trees are raised from seeds, which most years ripen well in England: the cones should be gathered about the end of November, and kept in a dry place till the spring, when they should be spread on a cloth and exposed to the sun, or laid before a fire, which will cause the scales of the cones to open and emit their seeds. These seeds should be sown on a border exposed to the east, where the morning sun only comes on it; or if they are sown on a bed more exposed to the sun, they should be screened with mats from the sun in the middle of the day; for when the plants first appear above ground, they are very impatient of heat;