

explanation seems at present hardly sufficient to account for the evident differences between *C. xanthocarpa* and any form of *flava*. And against it we have the positive testimony of Degland himself, who has mentioned the fruit, and of Boreau, who asserts that his plant remains constant under cultivation. The evidence of Boott, who certainly included *C. xanthocarpa* under his typical *fulva*, and who has described and figured a fertile as well as sterile form, may be taken as lending additional weight in the same direction. It seems more probable that both species have sterile forms. I have not found fully-developed fruit in our Hertfordshire examples, but the perigynia, which in this respect agree precisely with those of M. Schultz's specimens, are considerably smaller and less inflated than those of *C. Hornschuchiana* (with mature fruit), and in this respect differ widely from those of M. Grenier's sterile plant, which are said to be "du double plus gros, plus enflés, et pour cela plus divergents" (Grenier, l. c.). It is questionable perhaps whether the slender "spindle" shape of the male spikelet, on which some stress is laid by Babington in his description of *C. fulva*, may not sometimes be owing to a parallel affection of the masculine element.

*C. distans*, L.

Not uncommon on the wet moorish ground at the foot of the chalk hills in the north of the county, extending from Ashwell on the borders of Cambridgeshire to Wilstone on the very verge of Bucks. It occurs in several localities about Hitchin, and accompanies *Cenanthus Lachenalii* and *Samolus Valerandi*, both plants of a semi-maritime character, in each of their recorded stations. The correctness of the name has been questioned, as in the case of other inland counties, but the continental distribution is not against its occurrence in such situations, and it has been confirmed by high authorities. After the examination of a considerable number of specimens I can see no reason to doubt the accuracy of their conclusion. The *Carex* in the Kew herbarium from the neighbourhood of Barton, Bedfordshire (see p. 26), distributed as *C. fulva*, var. *speirostachya*, and which was collected at Shardeloes by Mr. Isaac Brown, must be referred also to the present species.

*C. binervis*, Sm.

The true plant! but quite confined to the south of the county, where in shaded places it attains very large dimensions.

*C. lavigata*, Sm.

This is given for Hertfordshire in the appendix to the "Flora of Middlesex," but I have never been able to trace on what authority. I need not add that I should be very pleased to be able to include it in our list.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *BACTRIS* IN THE HERBARIUM OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

By JAMES W. H. TRAIL, M.A., M.B., F.L.S.

*BACTRIS AUBLETIANA*, sp. nov.—Inermis (nisi spatha interiore aculeata), *B. simplicifrondis*, Mart., habitu; spadix trifidus vel quadridus. Caudice pennæ cygneæ crassitie, apicem versus vaginis obvelato;

vagina  $\cdot 08^m \cdot 12^m$  tomento detergibili obsita ad ochream in fibras fissa; petiolo  $\cdot 07^m \cdot 1^m$ , subtereti, supra sulcato; lamina ultra medium bifurca; alis rhomboideo-lanceolatis  $\cdot 22^m \cdot 3^m \times \cdot 05^m \cdot 08^m$ , supra subtusque glabris sed supra venulis transverse striatis; venis utrinque 6-8,  $\cdot 009^m \cdot 012^m$  dissitis; spatha exteriore membranacea; spatha interiore  $\cdot 08^m \cdot 1^m$ , fusiformi, longe acuminata, sublignea, setis  $\cdot 003^m \cdot 004^m$  subnigris patulis horrida; spadice  $\cdot 06^m \cdot 08^m$ , pedunculo decurvo, apicem versus sparse setoso, in ramos 3-4,  $\cdot 04^m \cdot 05^m$  fisso; fl. ♀, calyce et corolla subæquilongis, coriaceis, andrœceo sterili nullo; drupa?

Hab.—In Guiana collexit Aublet (Herb. Aublet,) et Martin (Herb. Rudge). Specimina sicca in Museo Britannico vidi.

This species differs from *B. simplicifrons*, Mart., in inner spathe and spadix, and in the very distinct striation formed by the transverse veins on the upper surface of the leaf; in other points they are very like each other. The characters seem constant, as the specimens collected by Aublet and by Martin agree in every respect.

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### SHORT NOTES.

LYCOPODIUM INUNDATUM IN KERRY.—This autumn I found a new locality for this Club-moss, so very rare in Ireland. It grows in some quantity on the shore of Lough Guitane, near Killarney, accompanied by another interesting plant, *Cicendia filiformis*. This is the third Irish county, the previously known localities being in Connemara, Galway, and in Cork.—A. G. MORE.

FLORA OF INISH-BOFIN, GALWAY.—This remote island lies in the Atlantic, off the junction of the two counties of Galway and Mayo, about six miles from the nearest point of the mainland of Connemara. It is about three and a half miles long and two wide at its greatest breadth, containing an area of 2312 acres (nearly 4 square miles). The population is 663. The geological formation belongs to the Lower Silurian Schists, with one narrow band of Serpentine on the south-west, and a few trap-dykes. The coast is almost everywhere bounded by rocky cliffs, with the exception of a small piece of low sand at the east end of the island. No trees occur; some Alders and Willows have been planted here and there, but the few stunted bushes of Blackthorn and Aspen, with several Brambles, represent the entire arboreal vegetation. Mr. A. G. More, in August, 1875, paid a visit (in company with Mr. R. M. Barrington) of four days to the island, and one other day was devoted to the adjoining island, Inish-Shark. He has now published, in the "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy" (2nd series, vol. ii., Science) a report on the Flora. A complete list with localities is given, amounting to 303 species, or with those seen on Inish-Turk, another of the same group, five miles north of Bofin, 323. The most remarkable plant observed was a variety of *Campanula rotundifolia*, with corollas at least an inch long, named var. *speciosa*. Many species present a stunted and dwarf habit of growth. The rarest plants gathered were: *Helianthemum guttatum*, *Calamagrostis*