

**RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE
FLORA OF IRELAND: BEING
A FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO
THE CYBELE HIBERNICA**

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Recent additions to the flora of Ireland: being a first supplement to the Cybele Hibernica by A. G. More

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BY

A. G. MORE, F.L.S., M.R.I.A.

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RECENT ADDITIONS
TO THE
FLORA OF IRELAND,
&c., &c.

THE present Paper originated in a desire to review the progress that has been made during the past six years in investigating the localities and distribution of Irish Plants; and I have, therefore, with the help of my friend and partner, Dr. Moore, put together in a connected form the several items of information which have accumulated up to this time, from various sources, and which, together with the results of our own occasional excursions, will furnish a tolerably complete record of what has been done since the summer of 1856, when our book, the "Contributions towards a Cybele Hibernica" appeared.

In a country so well known as Ireland, that has been searched botanically, since the time of Threlkeld and Patrik Browne, by Templeton, Wade, Drummond, Mackay, &c., and in our own day by other resident as well as travelling botanists, it cannot be expected that many flowering plants remain to be added to the Flora. It is rather in the regular and systematic survey of the country, in the more exact and critical discrimination of species, and in the study of the introduced plants that advance may be looked for. That the last few years have not been altogether barren of results will be evident when we come to recapitulate the various *addenda*.

For the long list of new plants and new localities which I now have the pleasure to lay before the Academy, we are in great measure indebted to the diligence and kindness of the numerous friends who have continued to entrust us with the result of their observations; and we are glad to think that among them are some whose attention and interest were perhaps first awakened, or at least directed to a profitable end, by the use of our *Cybele Hibernica*.

Foremost among those to whom we are thus indebted are:—

Mr. R. Clayton Browne, jun., of Browne's Hill, who has contributed a number of localities from the County of Carlow, etc., and has thus

filled up many of the *desiderata* in district iii. He is also the first botanist who has noticed *Crepis setosa* in Ireland.

The Rev. T. Allin, of Avonmore, has devoted much time and attention to the plants of Cork, and even in that well examined district has discovered many new localities, and some plants previously unknown in the county. Among them, *Rumex maritimus* and *Mentha sylvestris* deserve especial mention.

Mr. S. A. Stewart, of Belfast, has continued his diligent and careful observations, and besides numerous new stations, has found *Valerianella carinata* and *Acorus Calamus* in the North of Ireland: and *Sclerochloa procumbens* (one of the rarest Irish plants) in the very town of Belfast.

Mr. H. C. Hart has sent us some valuable notes of his many botanical rambles in Donegal, and he has also placed at our service a very full catalogue of the plants of the Southern Isles of Aran, the most complete that we have seen. He has also found *Brassica adpressa* for the first time in Ireland, and rediscovered *Alyssum calycinum* at Portmarnock.

Mr. J. Morrison, of Spring-hill, Enniscorthy, has kindly allowed us to examine his Herbarium, in which we have found, together with many other interesting plants, Irish specimens of *Oxalis stricta*, *Geranium nudosum*, *Erythraea pulchella*, and *Coehlearia anglica*.

Mr. R. M. Barrington, of Fassaroe, has supplied many localities from Wicklow and Waterford, and we are indebted to him for ascertaining that *Cuscuta trifolii* is permanently established as a colonist in the clover fields about Fassaroe.

Mr. Dowd, of the College Botanic Garden, has largely contributed towards filling up the list of district vii., and has found, for the first time in Ireland, *Makia borealis*, *Berteroa incana* and *Centaurea paniculata*. He also, with Professor E. P. Wright, has been the first to ascertain the immense and surprising abundance of *Sisyrinchium Bermudiana* over the low meadows lying between Woodford and Lough Derg, in some of which it actually constitutes a large proportion of the hay crop. Our reasons for still continuing to doubt the nativity of this plant in Ireland will be found fully given in the latter portion of this Paper. It will suffice here to say that a plant which has quite recently become established, with every appearance of a native, in Queensland, Australia, and also near Christchurch, in the South of England, may in Ireland have had a similar origin, and therefore cannot any longer be cited with confidence as indicating a former connexion between the American and Irish Floras.

From the Rev. S. A. Brennan, the Rev. S. Madden, Mr. John Douglas, Miss E. M. Farmer and others, we have received continual and most useful contributions. Besides these sources of private information, we have freely drawn upon Seemann's, now Trimen's, "Journal of Botany," and availed ourselves of the information given by Dr. Sigerson, Dr. E. P. Wright, Mr. S. A. Stewart, Mr. R. Tate, Mr. W. Andrews, Mr. G. H. Kinahan, and the late Mr. F. J. Foot in their published papers, the titles of which will be fully quoted hereafter.

In a copy of Threlkeld's "Synopsis Stirpium Hibernicarum," belonging to the Royal Irish Academy, are a few MS. notes left by some former owner, from which we have extracted those that seemed sufficiently important. One of these memoranda supplies a probable clue to the author of the list of plants in Harris's "Down," whose name appears to have been Isaac Butler.*

Last, but not least, we gratefully acknowledge the kindness of Dr. R. Templeton, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, who has most liberally favoured us with the loan of the MS. "Catalogue of the Native Plants of Ireland," which was drawn up between 1794 and 1810 by his father, the eminent naturalist, John Templeton of Belfast.

In enumerating the plants added to the Irish Flora since 1866, it will be convenient to arrange them under the following heads:—

SUMMARY OF ADDITIONS.

Undoubted natives, 8.

Trifolium subterraneum, E.	Salix Grahami, N. W.
Trifolium glomeratum, E.	Draba rupestris, N. W.
Scirpus parvulus, E.	Galium cruciatum, N. E.
Aira uliginosa, W.	Pyrola rotundifolia, Mill.

Of these the last three, printed in italics, have before now been recorded as Irish, though in 1866 we did not think that there was sufficient authority for their admission as such.

All eight are well known to occur in Great Britain, but at the time when first found in Ireland neither *Scirpus parvulus* nor *Aira uliginosa* had been gathered for many years.

Two of the eight are Western and Alpine, thus showing that something may yet remain to be done in the mountain botany of this country.

Four are Eastern, three of them having been found on the coast of Wicklow, within a short journey from Dublin. Of these, *Trifolium glomeratum* is the only species of our present *addenda* which belongs to Watson's Germanic or South-eastern type.

Draba rupestris is given in the seventh edition of Withering's "Botanical Arrangement," as found plentifully in Leitrim and Sligo by Mr. E. Murphy; but as *Draba incana* was not recorded by Mr. Murphy, though it is abundant on these mountains, while *D. rupestris* is very scarce, there is reason to fear a mistake was made in the name.

Galium cruciatum, long ago recorded in Harris's "Ancient and Modern state of the County of Down," as occurring near the Cathedral at Downpatrick, had quite escaped our notice, as it had that of Mackay; but having ascertained that it still grows in this locality, and has recently been found at Colebrooke, Fermanagh, we are very glad to restore it to its proper place in the Flora.

* A Botanist, and maker of Astrological Almanacks, who died in 1756.

Pyrola rotundifolia was included in How's "Phytologia Britannica" so long ago as 1850, as having been found by Mr. Heaton in a bog by Roscrea, in the King's County, a locality not yet verified, but which may prove correct, though in all other instances, except at Multyfarnham, we have satisfied ourselves that either *P. media* or *P. minor* have been gathered in the alleged Irish localities for *P. rotundifolia*.

Natives, but doubtful as species 3.

Thalictrum Kochii Epilobium tetragonum (verum.)
Potamogeton Lonchites.

The first two are critical plants, and would no doubt be classed as varieties by a great many botanists. *Potamogeton Lonchites* (Tuck) is a new name applied by Dr. Boswell Syme to the *Potamogeton* from the River Boyne, which we referred doubtfully to *P. heterophyllus*; and if correctly identified with the American species, this is one more American plant occurring in Ireland, though found nowhere else in Europe: but it is difficult to feel quite sure, when dealing with a genus of plants so variable and so little understood as the *Potamogetones*.

Plants probably introduced, 3.

Erysimum cheiranthoides. Mentha sylvestris.
Tamus communis.

The first two have already been admitted in the works of Mackay and others; but we now for the first time are able to give satisfactory localities. It is surmised that *Tamus communis* was planted at Hazlewood by the late Mr. Wynne.

Plants certainly introduced,

But well established in the wild state, 3:—

Acorus Calamus. Hippophae rhamnoides.
Cuscuta Trifolii ("Colonist,")

the first two having been planted, the last accidentally sown when mixed with agricultural seeds. Though planted at Courtown, it is barely possible that *Hippophae* may be native on the sandhills further south, according to what we hear from Mr. J. Morrison.

Casuals.

That is, plants certainly introduced by man, and which cannot be considered permanent additions to the Flora, being waifs and strays

from cultivation, or weeds springing from seeds conveyed by accident, 14 :—

Cardamine impatiens.	Valerianella carinata.
Brassica adpressa.	Crepis setosa.
Berteroa incana.	Centaurea paniculata.
Malva borealis.	Carduus setosus.
Geranium nodosum.	Campanula rapunculoides.
G. phæum.	Mentha Requienii.
Oxalis stricta.	Cynosurus echinatus.

Nearly all these are, no doubt, recent introductions, and most of them will probably disappear in the course of a few seasons. *Valerianella carinata* and *Crepis setosa* may possibly establish their hold on the ground, and thus in time become entitled to rank as "Colonists."

Thus there are thirty-one plants, which, after deducting casuals and a few that have before been borne on the Irish list, will leave at least twelve species to be reckoned as genuine additions to the Flora; and this I think is no inconsiderable result, and far exceeds the additions made to the English and Scottish Floras within the same time. Still, this scarcely increases the total number, as we have on the other hand to deduct ten plants, viz. :

SPECIES TO BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST.

- ?*Brassica oleracea*. Not a native, and nowhere well established.
Genista tinctoria. Not to be found at Killiney, some error?
 ?*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*. Thought to have been planted near Belfast, and we fear that the other stations are erroneous.
Campanula latifolia. *C. Trachelium* mistaken for it.
 ?*Aretium majus*. Name doubtful, as the only specimen is imperfect.
Calamintha Nepeta. Was *C. officinalis*.
Chenopodium intermedium. Now thought to have been *C. murale*.
Salix procumbens. Was *S. phyticifolia*.
Potamogeton lanceolatus. Was a form of *P. polygonifolius*.
Eriophorum alpinum. Some error, or change of specimens.

Among the discoveries of localities for scarce plants not new to the Flora, we have :

Neotinea intacta. Found by D. Moore on the shores of Lough Corrib in Mayo, associated with *Ophrys apifera*, *Potentilla fruticosa*, and other species characteristic of the Burren District, and therefore leading us to expect the discovery of this rare little orchid in other localities intermediate between Cong and Castle Taylor.

Rumex maritimus. Found by the Rev. T. Allin in Cork, this being the second Irish locality.

Arundo Epigejos. Gathered by Mr. H. C. Hart in Great Aran Island, this making the third locality in Ireland.