

**HAND-LIST OF
CONIFERAE, GROWN
IN THE ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS**

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Hand-List of Coniferae, Grown in the Royal Botanic Gardens by Various

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HAND-LIST

OF

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THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS.

(SECOND EDITION.)



LONDON:

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PREFACE.

THIS Hand-list might properly have formed part of that of the "Trees and Shrubs grown in the Arboretum," but so many persons possess collections of Conifers who are not interested in other ligneous plants that there was an obvious convenience in treating them separately. There was the further advantage that this enabled the species which are grown under glass to be included. The natural order, or rather group, *Coniferae*, is so well defined that it is desirable to enumerate in one list all the species actually in cultivation at Kew.

The present Hand-list (first edition) comprises 227 species, with 340 varieties, belonging to 37 genera.

Sir Joseph Hooker, the late Director of the Royal Gardens, had contemplated the preparation of a Catalogue of the Kew Pinetum. In view of this he had drawn up a brief review of the literature of the subject, which he has now, after revision, kindly permitted to be used.

"In the following list the species are referred to the genera under which they have been placed by the latest authorities, who have revised the Order *Coniferae*. That such an authoritative list should be published is the wish

of all intelligent cultivators of these interesting plants, and its publication in this country is rendered all the more needful from the fact that British cultivators alone persist in referring the Silver Firs to *Picea*, and the Spruces to *Abies*, a practice long abandoned on the Continent, and which has not been adopted in America. And if, as I hope, the correct nomenclature will in future be adopted in regard to the Latin names of these genera, I would further urge a reform in respect of their English equivalents, in so far as to confine the use of the words Pine to the species of *Pinus*, of Spruce to those of *Picea*, and of Silver Fir to those of *Abies*. We should then be in accordance with the universal practice throughout North America, which is the head-quarters of all three genera, where a Pine is never called a Fir, nor a Fir called a Spruce, nor a Spruce a Pine.

The following historic sketch of the various essays of Botanists to limit the genera and species of *Abietineae* shows how divergent have been their views. I have endeavoured to make it more instructive, by giving (where there are materials for doing so) under each attempt the number of species known to its author, thus further showing the progressive discovery of species during the last hundred and eighty years or thereabouts.

Tournefort, in 1717, indicated the three genera *Abies*, *Pinus*, and *Larix* (including *Cedrus*); and his *Cedrus* is *Juniperus*.

In 1731 the first edition of *Miller's Gardener's Dictionary* appeared, where he has *Pinus*, *Cedrus*, *Larix* and *Abies* with 16 species in all.

Linnaeus, in 1753, included these all under *Pinus*, of which he enumerated 10 species.

In 1789 A. L. de Jussieu, in his *Genera Plantarum*, has only two genera, *Pinus* and *Abies*.

In the same year the first edition of Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis* appeared, wherein all the *Abietineae* (19 species) are included under *Pinus*.

In 1803 was published the first edition of Lambert's *Genus Pinus*, containing about 35 species of *Abietineae*, all included under *Pinus*.

In 1813 the second edition of the *Hortus Kewensis* appeared, in which, as before, all the *Abietineae* (increased to 29) are included under *Pinus*.

In 1826 Louis Claude Richard's *Mémoire sur les Conifères* was edited by his son. This classical work is the earliest that dealt scientifically with the order *Coniferae*, and in it the Tribe *Abietineae* was first established, to include *Pinus* (under which were placed Spruces and Silver Firs), and *Larix* (which included the Cedars); to these were added, *Cunninghamia*, *Agathis* (*Dammara*), and *Araucaria*, which now form a distinct Tribe.

In 1827 Link, in the *Journal of the Academy of Sciences of Berlin*, proposed the five genera: *Pinus*, *Picea* (for Spruces), *Abies* (for Silver Firs), *Larix*, and *Cedrus*.

In 1832 the second edition of Lambert's *Genus Pinus* appeared, wherein the *Abietineae* were all, as before, included under *Pinus*; which however was broken up by David Don (Lambert's Herbarium keeper) into six

sections, *Pinus*, *Strobus*, *Abies* (for the Spruces), *Picea* (for the Silver Firs and Tsugas), *Larix*, and *Cedrus*. About 48 species in all are described.

In 1838 Loudon's great work, the *Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum*, appeared. The Tribe *Abietineae* is here adopted as defined by Richard, with the genera *Pinus*, *Abies*, *Picea*, *Larix*, and *Cedrus*: and here that confusion of *Abies* and *Picea* which so distresses British foresters and planters had its origin. At p. 2105 there is a *clavis* of the genera, where the genus *Abies* is attributed to Link, but the characters given to it are those of Link's *Picea*; and in like manner *Picea* is attributed to Link, though the characters given are those of Link's *Abies*, and they are followed by *D. Don* in brackets. Turning now to the full account of the genera, at p. 2293, we find "*Abies*, *D. Don* in *Lamb. Pin. vol. iii.*" with the addition of "*Picea*, Link" as a synonym, followed by descriptions of the Spruces. And at p. 2329 we have "*Picea*, *D. Don* in *Lamb. Pin. vol. iii.*" with *Abies*, Link, as a synonym; followed by descriptions of the Silver Firs. Now not only was the edition of Lambert's work subsequent to Link's establishment of *Picea* for Spruces and *Abies* for Silver Firs, but Don nowhere in Lambert's *Genus Pinus* proposed these names as generic. Disregarding this blundering, which probably originated in the elaboration of the conifers being a composite work of Don and Loudon working apart, there remains but one argument for preferring Don's nomenclature, which is, that Linnaeus called the Silver Fir *Pinus Picea* and the Spruce *P. Abies*, assuming that he was following the practice of the ancients, in which he is known to have been mistaken.