

THE EVOLUTION OF PLANTS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649171934

The evolution of plants by Dukinfield Henry Scott

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DUKINFIELD HENRY SCOTT

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OF PLANTS**

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BY

DUKINFIELD HENRY SCOTT

M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.

PRESIDENT OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON



NEW YORK
HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY
LONDON
WILLIAMS AND NORGATE

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HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, U.S.A.

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THE EVOLUTION OF PLANTS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION — THE DARWINIAN THEORY — NATURE OF THE EVIDENCE — THE FOSSIL RECORD

THE doctrine of Evolution is an attempt to answer the question, "What was the origin of all the multitude of forms of living animals and plants which now people the earth?" This question, so natural to ask, was long regarded by the majority of competent naturalists as insoluble.

Though we cannot, in the nature of things, have any direct knowledge of the origin of nature species (*i. e.* the different kinds of wild plants and animals), yet there are a great many familiar and often very distinct forms of living things, of which we do know the history, in whole or in part. These are our cultivated plants whole or in part. These are our cultivated plants and domestic animals. We know, for example (to confine ourselves to the plants), that our Roses and Tulips, Potatoes and Pars-