

stage of *Panicum scoparium* Lam. (*Panicum viscidum* Ell.) See Scribner & Merrill l. c. 36.

PANICUM LAXIFLORUM Lam. of Gray's Manual, ed. 6, 633 and (?) Trin. is *Panicum boreale* Nash. *Panicum laxiflorum* Lam. is a southern species.

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SOME MAINE PLANTS AND THEIR USES, "WISE AND OTHERWISE."

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THE following partial list of Maine plants and their uses is based upon my own observations and recollections as well as upon notes furnished me by others who have known the plants to be used.

Pteris aquilina. When this first starts growth in the spring it is cooked and eaten in place of asparagus, and I am told that one cannot tell the difference by tasting.

Osmunda cinnamomea. The heart of the root is eaten by children for its nutty taste. It is said to have some medicinal value, and is known sometimes as "bog onion."

Taxus Canadensis. The red berries of this, the ground hemlock, were one of the favorite fruits of my school days.

Typha latifolia. The leaves are gathered, dried and marketed: they are used by coopers in making molasses hogshead, the leaves being placed between the staves to make them tight. In early times the heads or cat-tails were used in place of feathers for making beds.

Arisaema triphyllum. The corms, dried and boiled, are said to have been extensively used as food by the Indians.

Acorus Calamus. Many people enjoy eating or nibbling the root of the sweet flag; and I remember seeing cough syrups made by boiling molasses and sweet flag. The root is candied by the Shakers and sold at Poland Springs.

Lilium Canadense. The Indians used the bulbs in making soups and in thickening their broths which were thus made more palatable.

Medeola Virginiana. The roots when used like cucumbers taste very like them and are certainly clean enough for food.

Cypripedium acaule. A decoction of the root of this or any of the other *Cypripediums*, known as "nerve-root" or "squaw-root," is taken internally to cure neuralgia and nervous diseases.

Myrica cerifera. The leaves, under the name of bayberry, are used to stuff pillows. In early times candles were made from the wax contained in the leaves, fruit, and twigs; and in burning they gave off a pleasant fragrance. The wax is now used by the Shakers in the preparation of a fine salve.

Myrica asplenifolia. The branches and leaves are steeped and the decoction is used to kill the poison of *Rhus Toxicodendron*.

Betula populifolia. Some people made their vinegar from the sap of the white or gray birch.

Rumex Acetosella. Red sorrel has been used in Aroostook County to make pies.

Chenopodium album. The pigweed, used to color the curd in making sage cheese, has been thought also to make the cheese rich. Under the name of lamb's quarters it is commonly used for greens.

Caltha palustris. Under the name, cowslip, the plant is much sought for greens, and it is sometimes cultivated.

Coptis trifolia. The roots of gold-thread are used for canker in the mouth.

Actaea spicata, var. *rubra.* Under the name of "cohosh" this is used as a remedy for heart troubles.

Hepatica triloba. Used for consumption, and under the name of liverwort for liver troubles.

Geum rivale. The plant is called chocolate-root, and the root when boiled makes a drink like chocolate.

Prunus Pennsylvanica. Fire cherries in combination with currants make a fine jelly. Used alone they make a jelly which is considered very healthful and healing if one has throat or lung troubles.

Prunus Virginiana. Choke cherries are sought to be eaten fresh. Cooked they make nice pies and sauce.

Prunus serotina. Black cherries are better eaten fresh than either of the previous. They are used in making cherry wine and also for a jelly which is considered to have considerable medicinal value.

Impatiens fulva. The juice of bruised leaves of this, "Celandine," is said to be a sure cure for the poison of *Rhus Toxicodendron*.

Daucus Carota. Carrots raised from seeds of the wild plant are said to be sweeter than the common garden varieties, but I think most people look upon them as poisonous.

Carum Carui. Caraway seed is used in cakes and in candy.

Ledum Groenlandicum (*L. latifolium*). The Labrador tea is used for canker in the stomach, and sometimes for dysentery.

Asclepias Cornuti. The young shoots are sometimes used for greens. The ripened pods are opened and used for decorative purposes. The silky down of the seeds is used for fancy bags and pillows, and it is said to have been spun for candle-wick by early settlers.

Scutellaria lateriflora. Skullcap steeped and drunk induces sleep.

Nepeta Cataria. One of my neighbors came in a hurry one day to get some of my dried catnip. She said her husband was threatened with pneumonia, and that catnip used in poultices and taken internally as a tea was a sure cure. I had long known of people using catnip tea for headaches and stomach troubles.

Physalis heterophylla. The fruits make nice preserves. In an old cook-book they are called husk-tomatoes.

Datura Stramonium. The capsules are smoked for asthma, and the root is sometimes used medicinally by country people.

Sambucus Canadensis. The flowers are used by my neighbors for elderberry wine, as are the berries also when they come later. Some people make a delicious jelly from the berries.

Viburnum Opulus. The fruit, known as "highbush cranberry" is used for sauce and jellies.

Cucurbita Pepo. Pumpkin seeds have been used to make custard pies, eight seeds shelled and pounded being used in place of one egg. Apple seeds are sometimes used in the same way, many more seeds, of course, being needed.

Eupatorium perfoliatum. Under the name, thoroughwort, this is used as a tea for colds, in syrups with molasses for coughs, and is supposed to be a good blood medicine. It is also much used in diseases of cattle.

Eupatorium purpureum. Joe-Pye-weed is used in Bright's disease.

Solidago. The blooms of various kinds are used to dye yellow.

Aster macrophyllus. The leaves were used in Gardiner fifty years ago as greens. They were called "tongue."

Tanacetum vulgare. Tansy cheese used to be made by steeping the tansy and pouring the tea into the milk before the curds were made.

Arctium Lappa. Burdock leaves are much used in the country as draughts to relieve fevers and headaches. The root is used in medicine.

Leontodon autumnale. Under the name of Arnica this is used in alcohol to relieve bruises, lameness, and rheumatism. A Farmingdale man declares it the best remedy known. The buds of Balm of Gilead, *Populus balsamifera*, are used in a similar way.

Taraxacum officinale. The dandelion is much used for greens. The root is said to give a very nice rich flavor to coffee, and it is sometimes used as a medicine. The roots of dandelion and of *Aralia nudicaulis*, the leaves of *Chimaphila umbellata* and *Gaultheria procumbens*, and the young shoots of hemlock and spruce are used in making root beer.

A strange dish of greens was once prepared, under the direction of an old woman of Irish descent, in my father's house. These were dandelions; two or more species of *Rumex*, one of which was *R. Acetosella*; the young shoots and leaves of the red raspberry; the young fronds of *Pteris aquilina*, under the name of hog-brake; and a generous portion of Canada thistle, *Cnicus arvensis*.

GARDINER, Maine.

NOTES ON ALGAE, — III.

F. S. COLLINS.

THE species here mentioned either are new to the American Flora, or their range is extended by the localities given. Unless otherwise indicated, they were collected by the writer.

Protoderma marinum Reinke, *Algenflora der westliche Ostsee*, p. 81, was found by the writer at Bridgeport, Connecticut, on New Year's day, 1900, on the shore by Seaside Park, where it formed a very thin, transparent, pale green coating on small pebbles in pools. The coating consists of a single layer of small polygonal cells, with rather thick walls; when examined with the microscope, many of the cells were found to be producing zoospores. In May a little of the same species was found at Newcastle, N. H., but not fruiting. In November it was quite abundant at Revere Beach, Mass., and