

He describes the seeds as larger, "more inclining to claret-colour," and shining.

I take no account of the land and water states of these plants, since they are merely temporary conditions directly induced by the environment, and not varieties.

I have not seen the original description of var. *chondrosperma*, Fenzl, and for the meantime have relied on that given by Rouy and Foucaud—"Graines opaques, fortement tuberculeuse."

TARAXACUM SPECTABILE, Dahlst., ssp. *GEIRHILDES*, Booby, ined.

Differs from the type in the leaves being always undivided, whether growing among long herbage or on bare ground. (In the type they are undivided when among herbage but deeply lobed when on bare ground.) After sixteen months' cultivation on bare ground the plants have never borne a lobed leaf, although the whole-leaved state of the type quickly assumes the bare-ground state, with lobed leaves, under similar conditions. The leaves are also of a much paler, yellower green, thus contrasting strongly with the dark, brown-red midrib. The flowers are one-fifth to one-fourth more in diameter than those of the type when grown side by side; of a darker (brownier) yellow; and copiously furnished with pollen, while the type is spolliniferous. The phyllaries and fruits are similar to those of the type.

The name has indirect reference to one of the localities, the Loch of Gairsta, formerly Geirhildarstaðr; here Geirhild, Hrafna Floke's daughter, was drowned when accompanying her father on his voyage to Iceland about the year 870, as we are told in *Landnámabok*.

The sub-species occurs plentifully on rock ledges, among heather, and in grassy places by the east side of Lang Klödi Loch, Northmaven; also among rocks and heather by the Loch of Gairsta, and elsewhere in Nesting and Weisdale.

I have always found the type to be pollenless until this year, when I found pollen-grains on the stigmas; but as the pot was standing next to that containing the ssp. *Geirhildes*, it is possible that the pollen had been conveyed by insects.

A NEW SIPHONEOUS ALGA.

By A. & E. S. GIFF.

SOME seven years ago we prepared a monograph of the genus *Udotea* in connection with the Reports of the "Siboga" Expedition to the Dutch East Indies, but decided to postpone its publication until we could study all the allied genera, and issue a monograph treating of the whole group of the *Udoteaceæ*. The text of this paper is practically ready for publication, but as other algologists are working at the same group of plants from the West Indies, we think it opportune to publish a preliminary diagnosis

of a new species of *Udotea* collected long since at the island of St. Thomas by the 'Challenger' Expedition, and preserved in the British Museum.

Udotea verticillosa, sp. n. Planta 4-5 cm. alta, calce in-crustata; fronde supra stipitem simplicem, 1 cm. longum 1 mm. crassum, flabelliformi basi cordata, 5-6 cm. lata, glaucoviridi, hand striata, distinctius zonata, margine proliferi-lobato, pagina minutissime crustato-spiculosa vel granulosa; filis flabelli 30-50 μ in diam. parallelis hand contiguis, monostromaticis, remote dichotomis, ramulorum lateralium subsessilium vel breviter pedicellatorum furcatorum spinosorum 30-50 μ long., stratum superficiale minute coralloideum formantium, subverticillos approximatos emittentibus; filis stipitis ramulorum lateralium pedicellatorum 100-400 μ long. profundius divisorum apicibus mammillatim acutatorum subverticillos similes emittentibus, parietibus incrassatis.

Hab. West Indies, St. Thomas, five to fifteen fathoms, 'Challenger' Expedition.

Its nearest ally is *U. argentea* Zan., which differs in having the lateral appendages of its frond-filaments capitate and more longly stalked.

THE GENUS *ROTULA*.

By ROBERT HUGH BONTING.

LOUREIRO's genus *Rotula* (Fl. Cochinch. 1790, p. 121) is referred tentatively by Bentham and Hooker (Gen. Plant. ii. 842) to *Rhabdia* Mart. (Nov. Gen. et Sp. Pl. ii. 136); in the *Index Kewensis* and by Mr. C. B. Clarke (Fl. Brit. India, iv. 145) it is cited as a synonym of *Rhabdia lycioides* Mart.

A question having arisen as to the identity of the plants described under the two names, Dr. Rendle suggested a careful comparison of Loureiro's type in the National Herbarium* with authenticated specimens of *Rhabdia lycioides*, since, if the two were proved identical, *Rotula*, being the earlier name, would take precedence. Unfortunately Loureiro's type consists only of twigs of two or less years' growth and devoid of foliage, together with a few isolated calyces and fruits and some young leaves, in a capsule. It was first compared with a specimen of *Rhabdia lycioides* from Nepal (Wallich No. 9063).

Transverse sections of the oldest branch of *Rotula* show it to have been collected in the early part of its second year's growth. The pith consists of parenchymatous cells fairly large in the centre but decreasing in size towards the xylem; there are no intercellular spaces. The xylem is chiefly composed of tracheids with a few large vessels scattered about in groups of two to five; the tracheids bordering the medullary rays are more or less rect-

* Loureiro sent in 1774 a small collection of plants to Captain Riddell, who subsequently presented it to Banks. See Journ. Bot. 1902, 389.