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EDITORIAL.

OUR journal has now been issued for nearly fourteen years. During this period the necessary expenses of printing and publication have greatly increased and the initial subscription price of one dollar a year is quite inadequate to cover the cost. As no reduction in the cost appears to be possible which would not seriously impair the quality of the journal and as the board of editors and managers feel increasing reluctance to permit recurring deficits to become a burden to the Club, it seems necessary to bring the price of the journal more nearly into accord with the cost. After careful consideration, it has been decided to place the annual subscription price from the beginning of Volume 15 at one dollar and a half, a rate which will be uniform both for the United States and for all foreign countries within the postal union.

A FURTHER NOTE ON EUPHORBIA CYPARISSIAS IN FRUIT.

WALTER DEANE.

SINCE I reported (RHODORA, XII, 57-61, 1910) the abundant fruiting of *Euphorbia Cyparissias* L. on the estate of Mr. G. N. Mc-Millan in Shelburne, New Hampshire, three seasons have passed, and I have examined all plants of this species met with, and made careful inquiries wherever possible. The Shelburne station has flourished inordinately, spreading over much more territory and perfecting its seeds in a manner worthy of a better cause. Indeed the case has

become so serious that a portion of the ground, covered by this plant, has been ploughed up, and Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) planted. I know of no other place where this *Euphorbia* has so persistently spread to such an extent. The fact that fresh plants appear many rods from established areas seems to indicate clearly that the seeds are responsible for these new colonies, while such colonies rapidly increase by means of the rootstocks in which the plants abound.

I have learned of but two new places where the plants develop fruit, these cases being interesting as showing the abundance of capsules where fruit is formed, while the fact that so few cases have come to my notice would seem to indicate the scarcity of fruiting areas, especially since attention has been previously called to the subject. Mr. W. Herriot of Galt, Ontario, kindly sent me in November, 1911, some fine fruiting specimens of *Euphorbia Cyparissias* L., collected by him in Galt on June 18, 1911. He wrote me several letters during the course of the year in regard to the species from which I will make extracts. On March 12, 1911, he says, "Regarding the fruiting of *Euphorbia Cyparissias* I have known the plant well for over 30 years, it being a common plant in old graveyards especially, but occasional by roadsides where it is very troublesome as a weed, being very difficult to eradicate. As to the fruiting I cannot speak with any certainty previous to 1910, my attention being drawn to its fruiting because I wanted to procure seed for the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa in their making up of extensive seed collections in which they are now engaged. I procured about one pint of seed altogether, and I would say that it fruits quite generally with us." In regard to the season of fruiting Mr. Herriot says under date of December 23, 1911, "Last year I collected the plants in full bloom on May 24, and the specimens I sent to you [in very ripe fruit] were collected June 18 of this year. On June 27 I collected about one half a pint of mature seed." The Shelburne plants were ripe on June 16, and on July 2 were rapidly losing their seeds.

I am indebted to Mr. Robert A. Ware for the other instances of the fruiting of this species. His letter to me, dated from his home, The Warelands, Norfolk, Massachusetts, June 6, 1912, is so full of interesting detail that I venture to quote it in full.

"You asked me for some notes on *Euphorbia Cyparissias* L. in fruit. Since you called attention, a few years ago, to the infrequency with which this plant is reported in fruit, I have examined such colonies of

it as I have chanced upon in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. In but one place have I found it in fruit, and that was in Greenfield, this state, on June 16, 1910. There I found two stations.

"The first station was on one of the main residential streets when I was walking from my hotel — the Welden — to spend a half day on the near-by elevation known locally as the 'Poet's Seat.' The plants were very numerous over an area of approximately thirty meters square, extending from the grassy street-side up a dilapidated bank-wall and over a part of a lot of grass land, in another part of which was a dwelling. The plants carried an abundance of well developed fruit in such an advanced stage of maturity that on drying there was a strong tendency for the fruit to become detached.

"On my return by a different route, I found on the margin of the settled portion of the city, two other patches close by each other, and distant from the first station a half or three-quarters of a mile. Though the area here was considerably less, the plants were numerous and bore abundant, well developed fruit.

"This year, on May 11th, I revisited the first station. The plants appeared to be as numerous as on my first visit, but were only just coming into flower. The area covered by them was limited on two sides by as many streets, while in another direction it was marked by a line beyond which the grass is kept closely cut as a lawn about the dwelling above referred to. Evidently the grass between the lawn and the street is allowed to mature before it is cut, a period which allows also for the maturity of the spurge.

"As to the persistency of the species in the face of a determined effort to eradicate it, I cannot speak from wide experience, but my belief is that it is not difficult to get rid of it if one wishes to do so. And for this reason: — when, some fifteen years ago, we first took possession of this place, I found, on one part of the house grounds, a tangle of low blackberry vines, grass and this *Euphorbia*. It seemed to me then a discouraging task to get them out of the way. But by frequent cutting I soon found that the undesired plants were willing to give up the struggle, and I have had no trouble from them since. Just beyond the limits of my cutting, however, they are holding their own with unabated vigor.

"As the first house here was built by my ancestors in the latter part of the seventeenth century, it is likely that the plants have been long in possession of certain places where they still persist. Ever since we have been here I have looked for fruit, but have never seen it here."

A specimen of the Greenfield *Euphorbia* in fruit is in my herbarium. There are now on record four American stations where *Euphorbia Cyparissias* has been found in fruit, Shelburne, New Hampshire, Greenfield, Massachusetts, Staten Island, New York, and Galt, Ontario. I shall continue to seek information in regard to the fruiting status of this species, and I trust that any new cases will be called to my attention.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

THE SAND PLUM IN INDIANA.

E. J. HILL.

DURING the summer of 1906 I discovered a *Prunus* which differed from any heretofore seen in the region about Chicago. It was growing in the sand just without the right of way of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, near Dune Park, Lake County, Indiana. The nearness to the railroad and the striking difference between its leaves and those of *Prunus Americana*, the common wild plum of this region, led me to conclude that it was an introduction. It was mainly represented by bushy branched shrubs, 1-3 m. high, which were quite thorny, or provided with short, spinescent branches. They formed two narrow thickets, each extending for several rods beside the fence which separated them from the railroad. They were examined the next spring for flowers, but too late for petals. No fruit set that year. In the spring of 1908 good flowers were obtained May 2nd, about two weeks earlier than the time of visiting them the year before. No fruit was borne that year. Enough had been disclosed by the flowers to make it evident that, if perfected, the fruit would be a plum. But, from the character of the leaves and flowers, and the habit of the shrub, I had concluded it was the sand plum, *P. Watsoni* Sarg., or if not specifically distinct, *P. angustifolia* Marsh., var. *Watsoni* (Sarg.) Waugh, introduced here from the western plains. Since it freely spreads by long roots running just below the surface of the ground, sending up new shoots or suckers at the distance of 4 or 5 m from the



Deane, Walter. 1912. "A further note on Euphorbia cyparissias in fruit."
Rhodora 14, 193–196.

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