

state my experiences with it. Occasionally during several years past I have found on a sandplain in Framingham where the bird's-foot violet occurs in great abundance plants bearing flowers varying in color from a light to a deep magenta, or almost red. Though the position of these individuals was carefully noted, I have never been able to find flowers of the same color in the same spot the succeeding season. Finally two of the unusual plants were transplanted to a garden. A year later these very plants bore the usual lilac-purple flowers. The cause of my inability to rediscover these reddish flowers at their old stations was thus suggested, and I uprooted the fickle things.

A similar experience befell me with *Rudbeckia hirta*. In July 1910 a specimen of this handsome weed was noticed differing from the thousands of others about it on a dry hillside in that the proximal half of each ray was a deep brownish-purple, somewhat brighter than the disk. It was carefully transplanted to good garden soil. But prosperity ruined it, too; this summer's flowers were plebeian in every way. Hence it suffered the fate of the violets.

It seems, therefore, that in these two cases, weak or pathological conditions are responsible for the color forms, the death or recovery of the abnormal individuals making their rediscovery impossible.—
A. J. EAMES, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

SCLEROLEPIS UNIFLORA IN MASSACHUSETTS.—On the 29th of October, 1909, Messrs. J. F. Collins, Thomas Hcpe and H. W. Preston found the unique little pine barren Composite, *Sclerolepis*, on the shores of Wallum Pond in Burrillville, Rhode Island,¹ the only station in New England except Dr. Lewis's at Bradford, New Hampshire.² Having occasion recently to look up the location of Wallum Pond, the writer was interested to note that it lies partly within the town of Douglas in Worcester County, Massachusetts; and since the Committee on the Massachusetts Flora had no record of *Sclerolepis* from the state it seemed worth while to settle whether the plant is as localized (found only in Rhode Island) as might be inferred from Professor Collins's note. Accordingly plans were made to visit the pond with Mr. F. F. Forbes on October 29 last — on which date in 1909 the

¹ Collins, RHODORA, xii. 13 (1910).

² F. T. Lewis, RHODORA, vii. 186 (1905).

plant was "just coming into bloom." We had expected to go from Brookline to Douglas by automobile, but the freezing weather of the preceding night rendered a motor trip somewhat unattractive, so we went by train and drove from the station in Douglas to the northern end of the pond. All the vegetation of the sandy beach was blackened by frost, but searching on our hands and knees among the shriveled remnants of *Rhexia*, *Ilysanthes*, etc. we soon found a dried and fruiting plant of *Sclerolepis* within a stone's throw of the northern end of the pond — about one mile north of the Rhode Island line. Prolonged search revealed no more of the plant on the dry beach, but after giving up the hunt and starting upon a circuit of the pond we were delighted to find *Sclerolepis* green and in all stages of development from young bud to mature fruit in a spring-rill (also in Massachusetts) upon the northeastern shore. After that little of the plant was found upon the eastern shore, but on making our way over and amongst the granitic boulders which strew the western shore we came upon it in great quantity at every spring and seepy bank among the boulders. Such stations, with *Sclerolepis* the only green and flowering plant at this late date, were found at frequent intervals along the entire length of the western shore, in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The point which struck us was that, although abundant in and around springs and often completely submersed, *Sclerolepis* was nowhere seen in rapidly flowing streams.

The abundance of the plant about Wallum Pond, which is a clear sheet of water with a clean beach of granitic gravel and sand, suggests the probability that search about other such ponds — which are numerous — in Worcester County and the eastern section of Massachusetts as well as in eastern Connecticut, will show *Sclerolepis* to be more generally distributed than we know. It is highly probable that the late flowering season of the plant — after most plants of such shores are past maturity — has prevented its detection, but from our experience at Wallum Pond we should advise watching for the plant in September and early October. Superficially *Sclerolepis* suggests the Mare's Tail, *Hippuris vulgaris*, or a very attenuated *Aster nemoralis* with tiny flesh-colored heads.— M. L. FERNALD.

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