

## ANOTHER STATION FOR CENTAUREA DIFFUSA.

ROBERT A. WARE.

IN 1902, *Centaurea diffusa* Lam. was reported from Norfolk, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> As this plant of continental Europe seems not yet to have made its appearance in this country to any considerable extent it may be well to record its presence in Plainville, Massachusetts.

My friend and companion of many walks and drives, Dr. H. S. Kilby of North Attleboro, to whom indeed I am indebted for first arousing my botanical interests, had noted the strange plants and, in accordance with a pleasant custom, planned a trip which should reveal them to me. Without intimating the object of the trip, he took me on August 7, 1909, to the neighborhood, which is well removed from railroad and important thoroughfares — driving slowly that I too might have the joy of discovery. No doubt my enthusiastic expressions of interest were counted sufficiently rewarding, but not until specimens had found their way to the Gray Herbarium was their identity established.

Last year in July, I visited the station again. The plants were very numerous, occupying an open area about 45 × 90 m. of hard, dry, gravelly soil about a cellar where once stood a dwelling, since burned. They were from 2 to 8 dm. high, had a stout, elongated, vertical root, with few fibrous rootlets, and were grayish-green and scabrous throughout. Such basal leaves as they may have possessed earlier had disappeared at the time of my visits. Those of the stem and branches were not conspicuous, the uppermost being very small and entire, the lower pinnate with few, very narrow divisions. The numerous small heads, 2–5 mm. in diameter through the involucre, terminated the stiff, divergent branches and branchlets. The appressed tips of the outer involucreal bracts were deeply and sharply pectinate-ciliate. The flowers were mostly white, with relatively few a delicate pink, and others a deeper rose-purple. Later examination with a lens, showed the pectinate tips to be minutely spinose, the inner bracts smooth, not pectinate, but with scarious margins more or less lacerate and a sharp, extended mid-rib, the achenes smooth and pappus setose.

<sup>1</sup> RHODORA, 4: 249. 1902.



Nearby, but on a slightly lower level, are the ruins of a tiny mill, its basement walls, water way and wheel still surviving. Seeking out the proverbial "oldest inhabitant" I found that, while he had never noticed the plants in question, he was possessed of a keen memory for the events of his earlier years. Welcoming a patient listener, he told me the story of the mill which for several generations prior to 1893 when it was burned, had contributed to the welfare of this isolated hamlet. For at least a part of its existence it had been devoted to the making of carpets, materials for which had been assembled from various sources.

While it is known that the plants have been growing there for at least a dozen years, the period is probably much longer. It is doubtless also safe to assume that the mill is responsible for their presence. And yet the wonder is that, having established themselves at all and having persisted so long, they have not increased their area far beyond the present limits. They have not even crossed to the opposite side of the narrow roadway where apparently conditions are identically the same. With the exception of a single plant found in an adjacent rather poor grass field, somewhat careful examination failed to reveal any extension of the limits first noted.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## PTERIDOPHYTE NOTES FROM EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

SIDNEY F. BLAKE.

*Woodsia obtusa* (Spreng.) Torr. Winter occurrences of this plant are apparently rather rare at least in this region, so that it may be well to record four small specimens (no. 288, my herb.) of this species, of varying degrees of greenness, collected on a large rock in Canton on 27 March, 1909.

*Dicksonia punctilobula* (Michx.) Gray. On 21 March, 1909, I collected three small fronds (no. 285), which had endured the winter, on faces of cliffs in North Stoughton near the Avon boundary, possibly one or two of them really inside Avon limits. My search in the same locality on 30 January, 1910, failed to bring any of the plants



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