

PANAX

P. trifolium L. Rich moist woods, frequent throughout.

C. H. KNOWLTON	} Committee on
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A FORM OF *ILEX OPACA*.—That the North American holly (*Ilex opaca*) sometimes occurs in a form with entire or nearly entire leaves has long been known and occasionally commented upon. No one, however, appears to have given this form even a horticultural name. This is perhaps partly because our species has been much less cultivated than the European *I. Aquifolium* and its variants are correspondingly less well known; and partly because of an apparently prevailing impression that the entire leaves occur mainly on the upper branches of otherwise typical trees.¹ Similar statements have been made in regard to the European holly and have given rise to a pretty theory that leaves within reach of grazing cattle bear spines, but that when they attain a safe altitude they divest themselves of this unfriendly armament.

Dr. L. C. Jones, of Falmouth, Mass., has recently been investigating the form of our holly with sub-entire leaves, as it occurs in his region, and has kindly communicated notes and specimens to the Gray Herbarium. He finds that in two well-grown and mature trees (15–20 feet tall and 3–4 inches in diameter at the base) which he observed among some thirty individuals of the ordinary type, the foliage is of uniform character throughout. Some of the leaves are quite entire, others have a very few, irregularly scattered spiny teeth;² both kinds grow together on the same branches in all parts of the tree. Dr. Jones notes further that “the leaves of these two trees appeared thicker and more opaque than those on the trees of the common variety and the effect in the mass was to give them a duller and darker shade of green, as if a little black or dark brown had been stirred into the pigment.”

Examination of fruiting specimens of the Massachusetts plants and of like flowering ones from the South discloses no distinctive characters other than those of the leaves. Entire-leaved forms of

¹ See Sargent, *Sylva N. Am.* i. 107, and Mellichamp, *Bull. Torr. Bot. Club* viii. 112, whom Sargent quotes.

² The usual form has 3–7 spiny teeth rather regularly disposed on each side of the leaf.

Ilex Aquifolium have been known in cultivation for many years (e. g., var. *laurifolia* Hort.); the form of *I. opaca* in question appears to be analogous to them. Dr. Jones's observations show that it may become clearly segregated in the wild; since it is a striking variant and likely to attract attention, it is, perhaps, well that it should have a name. It may be called:

ILEX OPACA Ait., forma **subintegra** f. nov., foliis integris vel sparsissime spinoso-dentatis. Leaves entire or with a very few scattered spiny teeth.—On a knoll, in sandy loam among white oaks and birches, Mashpee, Mass., January 16, 1921, *L. C. Jones* (TYPE in Gray Herb.).

Specimens referable to this form have been seen from South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi; it is, no doubt, to be expected wherever the species occurs.—C. A. WEATHERBY, GRAY HERBARIUM.

THE AMERICAN VARIATIONS OF *SILENE ACAULIS*.—Practically a century ago that wonderfully keen student of the flora of Newfoundland and the adjacent regions, Bachelot de la Pylaie, had in preparation a very detailed *Flore de Terre-Neuve, St. Pierre et Miclou*, a work which, on account of his untimely death, was never published. The manuscript of this work is preserved at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris and in it la Pylaie proposed many American plants as new species or varieties,—plants which, naturally, have subsequently been detected and published by others. One of the novelties proposed by him was the plant which has generally passed in northeastern America as *Silene acaulis* L. La Pylaie, giving it a name which if now published would merely add to synonymy, distinguished it from true *S. acaulis* of Europe by “*floribus breviter pedunculatis, caespite vix emersis . . . capsulis calyce paulo longioribus*”; true *S. acaulis* having, as he said, “*les capsules . . . deux fois aussi longues que le calice*” and the peduncle usually equaling or exceeding the latter.

In this case, although la Pylaie thought he had a new variety, his plant was, as it now proves, identical with a generally recognized variety of arctic and alpine regions of Europe, var. *exscapa* (All.) DC.; and in 1868 Rohrbach in his *Monographie der Gattung Silene* pointed out that our plant belongs to this variety. The bibliography is as follows:



Weatherby, Charles Alfred. 1921. "A Form of *Ilex opaca*." *Rhodora* 23, 118–119.

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