

five the year before that left only a loss of twelve plants, due perhaps to cattle walking over them. There were no plants in either colony that produced fertile spikes this year, and why I cannot tell, as the spring was exceptionally wet even as late as the last of May. All the plants in the colony of *B. obliquum* were true *obliquum*, no *dissectum* were found among them.—E. W. GRAVES, *Bentonsport, Iowa*.

RABBITS EAT EQUISETUM PRAEALTUM.—In March, I frequently visited the large patch of *E. praealtum* Raf. which grows in a ravine north of Columbus, Ohio. A number of rabbits make their home in this patch which covers a number of acres of ground and is criss-crossed by their well-beaten runways. These paths were in some places actually carpeted with Equisetum shoots which had been bitten off from the sides of the galleries. At various places, masses of refuse, consisting of one or more internodes but commonly of short pieces containing the dry sheath and the node, were seen. Usually at these places there were also abundant rabbit droppings. Although I did not see the rabbits eating the scouring-rushes, there is no doubt whatever that the main food, and perhaps the only thing in the daily menu at this time of the year, is Equisetum stems for all the rabbits living in the patch. Some of the rabbit droppings were examined under the compound microscope and were found, apparently, to consist entirely of small flakes and chips of the silicious epidermal cell walls, and pieces of vascular bundles of the *Equisetum praealtum*. The silicious walls were too much for the digestive ability of the rabbits and had passed through unchanged, so that all the epidermal characteristics of stomata, tubercles, and ridges were in perfect condition, although the food elements had probably been mostly extracted from the

cells. Since during the winter the central cavities of this *Equisetum* are more or less completely filled with water or ice, the rabbits have a feast of food and drink with the least amount of exertion on their part. I do not have a pet rabbit at home, otherwise he would certainly have had to demonstrate his ability to enjoy a supper of *Equisetum* or else go to bed hungry.—JOHN H. SCHAFFNER, *Columbus, Ohio*.

WHAT LUCK HAVE YOU HAD IN NATURALIZING HART'S TONGUE PLANTS?—With the shipment of a few plants this spring, the last of the first culture of sporeling Hart's Tongue plants at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden have been distributed for naturalization purposes. It will now be extremely interesting to hear the record of success,—and failure,—from those who have set out any of these plants. It will be valuable to compile a rather complete report covering practically all the plants that were shipped and request is hereby made to everyone who has set out live Hart's Tongue plants in the last few years, either the native specimens which Mr. Ransier sent out, or the sporelings sent out by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, to answer the following questions.

Have your plants lived or died? If the latter, a brief note of explanation if you can give it as to the cause of the failure will be helpful. If your plants have lived, have they increased in size, both in numbers and dimensions of leaves?

It will also be interesting to keep rather close track of this experiment in naturalization and conservation. It is the intention now to start a new spore culture from which young plants should be available in about a year. The intervening period will afford a useful opportunity for report and evaluation of the success of the first distribution.



Schaffner, John H. 1928. "Rabbits Eat Equisetum praealtum." *American fern journal* 18, 98–99. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1544596>.

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