

regarding the correctness of the identification; the remains are, however, more like those of *Zizyphus* than anything else in the existing flora with which they have been compared either by the writer or by Mr. McAtee of the Biological Survey.

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TWO INTERESTING NEW ENGLAND PLANTS*

BY H. A. ALLARD

During a brief visit around Oxford, Massachusetts, in September, 1910, I was much impressed with the pretty Spiked-Loosestrife [*Lysimachia terrestris* (L.) B. S. P.]. At this season in certain situations many plants had become strikingly conspicuous from the great numbers of deep red, elongated bulblets which were growing from the axils of the numerous, more or less distinctly whorled leaves. These bulblets, which morphologically are suppressed branchlets, may reach a length of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, are very pointed and deep red in color. Late in the season these bulblets are very easily detached and thickly strew the ground beneath the plants.

In June and July the Spiked-Loosestrife produces an abundance of small, brown-marked, yellow blossoms in a terminal, pyramidal raceme. The plants, however, are far more noticeable in autumn when they have become reddened with their axillary bulblets, which at first sight resemble peculiar little fruits more than anything else. Conditions of environment seem to determine whether the plants will produce these bulblets abundantly or not. Many botanical descriptions of *Lysimachia terrestris* make little or no mention of this well-marked habit of the plant to produce axillary bulblets.

The Narrow-leaved Laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia* L.) is a low, evergreen shrub thriving in pastures throughout New England. During its growth it forms small tufts which, in the course of years, if the conditions of growth have been uniform, may form great circular areas many feet in diameter. This peripheral extension is probably accomplished by a process of budding from underground shoots.

*Illustrated with the aid of the Catherine McManes fund.

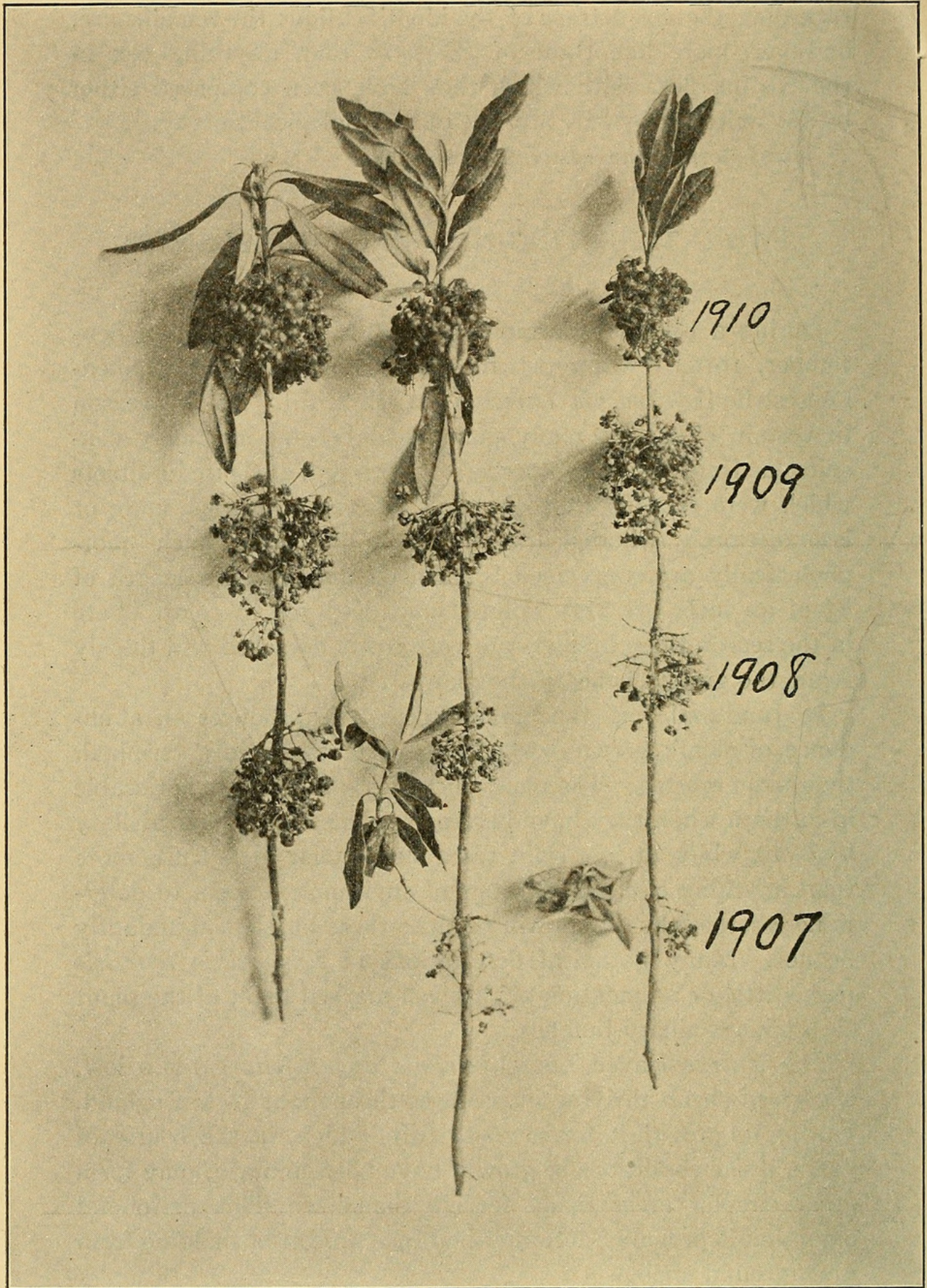


FIG. 1.—Capsule-clusters of *Kalmia angustifolia* of successive years.

It is interesting to observe how persistently this *Kalmia* retains the seed capsules of each season's growth.

If fruiting branches of this little shrub be carefully examined, it will be noted that several clusters of small, closely crowded capsules appear along the stalk, as shown in the accompanying photograph. Each cluster is the growth of a single season, and as the capsules are strongly persistent, clusters several years old may be present. The accompanying illustration shows two stalks with a few capsules still adhering from the growth of the season of 1907, together with clusters of each succeeding year including the present season of 1910. The uppermost cluster of capsules represents the present season's growth, and is of a rich, reddish-brown color, which becomes a dull, faded grey in older clusters longer exposed to weathering influences.

The beautiful, showy rose-red flowers of early summer are closely arranged in whorls of little corymbs in the axils of the persistent, last year's leaves. Later in the season following the appearance of the clustered capsules these subtending leaves are shed and the leafy shoot of the present season surmounts the topmost capsule cluster, as shown in the photograph. These new leaves persist through the winter, and from their axils will appear the flowers and seed-capsules of the next season.

Kalmia angustifolia flourishes in open, damp situations throughout New England. In certain open hilly pastures it becomes especially luxuriant. The rare beauty of its clustered, deep rose-red flowers in early summer together with the green, persistent leaves, the neat, compact, massing habit of growth, and its hardy adaptability should highly recommend this *Kalmia* to cultivation.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

REVIEWS

The Origin of the Coco Palm*

Having described a new species of *Glaziova*, founded upon a specimen growing in the Botanical Garden at Buitenzorg, but

**Glaziova Treubiana* nouvelle espèce de Cocoïnée, avec observations sur le genre Cocos. Par O. Becarri. Annales du Jardin Botanique de Buitenzorg, 2e Serie, Suppl. III. Pp. 791-806, Plate and text figures. Leide, 1910.



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