

pods triquetrous-ovoid, finely dotted, 4 to 5 lines long; late foliage nearly glabrous, but rather fleshy.

Collected by Mr. J. M. Dickson near Port Flamboro, Ont., May, 1898, and grown by Dr. Greene and the writer. The growing plants are very easily distinguished from *V. cuspidata* to which it is closely related. Included in this paper in order to complete the enumeration of the Ontario species as far as they are known.

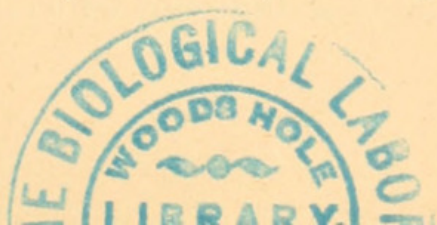
Ottawa, Dec. 1898.

REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL SECTION, 1898.

In the Botanical Branch there has been more than usual activity during the past season. At all the sub-excursions, of which there have been more than in any previous year, of the Club's history, the followers of the botanical leaders have always been by far the most numerous. Accounts of these sub-excursions have already appeared in THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, and need not be referred to here.

An unusual advantage to the Club during the past season has been the large proportion of the meetings at which Prof. Macoun has been able to be present. Unfortunately Mr. Robert Whyte is still unable to take an active part in the field work of the Club; but he has been well represented by Miss Marion Whyte a member of the Council of the Club who has been a constant attendant at the excursions throughout the season.

Several additions have been made to the local flora during the year. Since the completion of Prof. Macoun's "Cryptogamic Flora of Ottawa" published in THE OTTAWA NATURALIST eight species of lichens and six of mosses have been added by him to the local list. In September and October Prof. Macoun collected over 600 species of fungi in the vicinity of Ottawa. Of these, many were additions to the local flora, a few were new to America though found in Europe and several were new to science. Mr. Percy Saunders also made a special study of fungi



during the autumn months adding several species to the local lists.

A critical study of the acaulescent violets of the vicinity was made by Mr. J. M. Macoun, and six species were found to have been included in what has been generally known as *Viola cucullata*. Of these, three are new to science, and two had not been before recorded from this region.

What has been commonly known as *Antennaria plantaginifolia* has also been separated into many species by specialists and three of these have been found in the vicinity of Ottawa.

Several rare local species were again noted this year by members of the Club. Some of these are now nearly extinct in this district and for that reason it is thought well to draw attention to them.

Mention may be made of *Aralia quinquefolia* found at Beechwood and *Claytonia Virginica* near the outlet of Dow's Swamp. Two of the rarest plants in this vicinity were again seen—*Listera australis* at Mer Bleue and *Aspidium spinulosum* var. *Braunii* at Chelsea. *Botrychium Lunaria* a very rare fern was found by Mr. J. M. Macoun to be locally abundant on the railway embankment near Stittsville and is an addition to the local list.

Our botanists do not sufficiently appreciate the usefulness and value of the National Herbarium housed in the Geological Survey Museum. This herbarium now contains between 80,000 and 90,000 sheets of specimens which are available for study and reference by any one who cares to utilize them.

The Normal School collection of plants has been considerably enriched during the year by donations from members of the Club. Prof. Macoun has presented 100 sheets of Cryptogams and smaller collections have been presented by Drs. Ami and Fletcher. Members of the botanical section are requested to send in to the leaders any specimens of which they have duplicates so that this collection may be as complete as possible in

the species which grow wild near Ottawa and which therefore are more likely to be of value to the Normal School Students than species found in other parts of the Dominion.

Another public institution to which reference may again be made is the Botanical Garden and Arboretum at the Central Experimental Farm where there are now growing 2000 species of trees and shrubs and 1200 species of herbaceous perennials. These collections are available for reference by students at all times.

The leaders again call the attention of the botanists to the comparatively large proportion of the Ottawa district which has not yet been exhaustively examined and trust that during the coming season the activity shown this year will be continued.

Leaders : { D. A. CAMPBELL,
J. M. MACOUN,
R. B. WHYTE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES.—W. T. MACOUN, Editor.

I. AN ALBINO EAVE SWALLOW.—By Geo. R. White, Esq., Ottawa.—On September 5th, 1898, I witnessed the flocking up, preparatory to migrating, of large numbers of the Cliff Swallow. The birds were arriving in flocks from all quarters of the compass, and by 9 o'clock a.m. there were over a thousand. With them were a few Barn and Bank Swallows with a stray Chimney Swift. This large flock kept flying up and down over a large stretch, nearly a mile of marsh land, never remaining in one place more than ten minutes at a time. This performance was kept up all day, and next morning the place was deserted ; only a few odd birds were seen. While watching the movements of the swallows my attention was attracted by a white bird that kept with them. In the afternoon I was enabled after three hours' hard work to examine it, an Albino of the Cliff or Eave Swallow *Petrochelidon Lunifrons*. A short description of this specimen and of a full plumed male is as follows :

The Albino—Bar across forehead, throat and upper tail coverts with a few odd feathers about head, pale rufous, re-



Campbell, D. A., Macoun, James Melville, and Whyte, R. B. 1899. "Report of the Botanical Section, O.F.N. C, for 1898." *The Ottawa naturalist* 12(10), 187–189.

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