

SHORT NOTES

ALIENS IN FIELD AT FROYLE, N. HANTS, V.C.12

On October 12th, 1947, the gamekeeper reported to me that he had seen some strange weeds in a field at Yarnham's Farm, one of which I knew by his description to be *Datura Stramonium* L. I visited the field, which is of about six acres, with soil of clay with flints on upper chalk. The 600 ft. contour line crosses the field about the middle, the ground sloping to the south. The lower part was planted with potatoes and the top $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres with ridge cucumbers, and it was in this piece that the aliens were growing. The manures used were:—Farmyard, Fisons potato manure, potassium chlorate, and castor meal.

In addition to the one *Datura* plant and fifty species of weeds common on arable ground, the following aliens were found. They have been identified at the British Museum (Natural History) and by Mr J. P. M. Brenan (the latter are marked *):—

- Abundant—*Amaranthus chlorostachys* Willd.*, *A. Dinteri* Schinz var. *uncinatus* Thell.*, *Chenopodium carinatum* R. Br., *C. carinatum* × *cristatum* (F. Muell.) F. Muell. (det. Dr Aellen).
 Occasional—*Erodium cygnorum* Nees*, *Medicago minima* (L.) Bartal. var. *recta* (Desf.) Burnat, *Xanthium spinosum* L., *Physalis ixocarpa* Brot., *Chenopodium pumilio* R. Br., *C. cristatum* (F. Muell.) F. Muell.
 Rare—*Erysimum* sp.? (too young for identification), *Malvastrum spicatum* (L.) A. Gray, *Medicago laciniata* Mill. var. *brachyacantha* Boiss., *Nicandra physaloides* (L.) Gaertn., *Sorghum vulgare* Pers., *Eragrostis poaeoides* Beauv.; *E. pilosa* (L.) Beauv.

Soon afterwards the ground was ploughed, and again during the spring of 1948. It was then harrowed and in July planted with Broccoli in rows 3 ft. apart. It received no more cultivation and soon became covered with weeds of which *Stellaria media* L. was dominant, covering most of the ground. Only about twenty species were found in 1948, and only three of the aliens, *Amaranthus chlorostachys* fairly abundant in one part of the field, and one plant each of *Erodium cygnorum* and *Medicago laciniata* var. *brachyacantha*.

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THE HERBARIUM OF THE SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Herbarium is housed in the Society's Museum at Taunton Castle, Taunton, Somerset. It contains about 3,500 specimens of phanerogams, mounted on sheets the same size as those of the British Museum Herbarium. The principal collection is that of Miss M. A.

Livett (-1933), which is mostly from Somerset. Another large collection is that of Dr H. Franklin Parsons (1846-1913), consisting mostly of Somerset and Wiltshire specimens. There is another Parsons Herbarium at Grangewood Museum, Croydon.† The British Herbarium of the Rev. C. S. Parish (1822?-9), who is best known for his Burmese collections, is also at Taunton. It is not confined to Somerset and includes specimens from Surrey, etc.* In addition there are specimens from H. S. Thompson (Somerset), H. Slater, G. C. Druce, Rev. S. F. Dymock, Spencer Bickham (Cheshire), J. Ray (Epping), H. J. Riddelsdell, A. Ley, M. Slater, R. P. Murray, F. J. Hanbury, T. R. Sim, E. S. Marshall, Dr Stephenson, Mary Sykes, C. Maplebeck, J. G. Baker, W. Salkeld (Cumberland), E. H. Sheppard (Killarney), J. Ball (Kerry), Henry Kingsley (Uxbridge), G. Maw (Devon), Dr Anthony Southby (Somerset and Cornwall), Thomas William Cowan (Somerset), Mrs Hutchinson (Salop), J. Cunnack (Cornwall), Corder (Essex), W. R. Crotch (Somerset), J. T. Syme, Charles Bailey, C. Rogers, F. Y. Brocas (Richmond, etc.), T. Barclay (Montgomery), R. C. Alexander (Wilts, Cornwall), W. S. Clarke, G. H. K. Thwaites, E. Parfitt. Probably these are mainly duplicates received through exchange clubs.

The cryptogamic herbarium includes a collection of marine algae made by Miss Isabel Gifford, C. S. Parish's British Mosses, and a set of R. Braithwaite's Sphagnaceae (1877).

Thomas Clark's (1793-1864) Herbarium is also here. He lived at Bridgwater and wrote (1856-7) "A Catalogue of the Rarer Plants of the Turf Moors of Somerset," *Proc. Somerset Arch. Soc.*, 7 (2), 64. His specimens were mostly collected in Somerset.

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†A note in the *Journal of Botany*, 52, 280, 1914, states that the whole of Dr H. Franklin Parson's natural history collection (including his herbarium) would be accessible to the public at the Grangewood Museum, Croydon. At the present time Croydon Natural History Society possess three herbarium cabinets containing phanerogams, bryophytes, etc., from Surrey and elsewhere collected by Dr Parsons. These are stored at their headquarters at Eldon House, Croydon, and are commonly referred to (with other geological and botanical specimens) as the "Parsons Bequest." The collections agree with the description in the note cited above and it is highly probably that they are those intended for the small building in Grangewood Recreation Ground.—J. E. LOUSLEY.

*I am indebted to Mr A. D. Hallam, who is in charge of the Herbarium, for some of the information in this note.