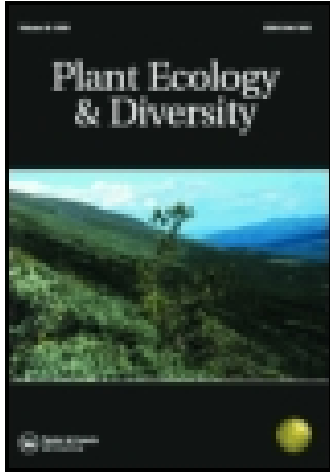


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V. Recent Botanical Intelligence

Professor Balfour

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“The portions of the deals under the counters and along the side walls, were not decayed to the same extent, though to some degree.”

V. Recent Botanical Intelligence. By Professor BALFOUR.

Dr Balfour read a letter from Mr L. P. Capewell, Ballarat, Victoria, accompanying specimens of *Stemonites fasciculata*, Pers., on a Eucalyptus. Mr Capewell had also sent a gathering of Diatomaceæ, which was examined by Dr Greville, who observes:—“Mr Capewell’s gathering is a very interesting one, not as containing anything new, but because every form in it is British. It is quite a nest of *Epithemiæ*; the predominant form is *E. gibba*; then come *E. turgida*, *Westermanni*, and *ventricosa*. The remaining form is *Diatomella Balfouriana*, only recently discovered and described in this country. How strange that it should next be found at the antipodes, in company, too, with a colony of British species!”

Dr Balfour stated that his friend, Professor Smyth, who had lately visited Teneriffe, had occasion to examine the famous Dragon tree (*Dracæna Draco*) of the Canaries, a drawing of which is given in Humboldt’s large work. The drawing in that work does not give a correct representation of the form and size of the tree. Dr Balfour explained, on a large drawing, the errors which had been committed by Humboldt’s artist.

Dr Balfour then gave a *resumé* of Cohn’s researches on the reproduction of *Spheroplea annulina* and of Pringsheim’s on *Edogonium ciliatum*. Dr Balfour also referred to Dr Hilgard’s explanation of the law of phyllotaxis, which he refers to the numerical genesis of cells.—(*Edin. Phil. Jour.*, v. 375–6.)

Dr Balfour exhibited a specimen of *Sycomorus antiquorum*, presented by Mr G. S. Lawson, and taken from the famous Sycomore near Heliopolis. He also stated that the peculiar partitioned wood presented to the Museum some time ago by Mr Daw, appeared to be the produce of *Cecropia peltata*. Principal Dawson, of M’Gill College, Montreal, was disposed to think that it threw light on the structure of *Sternbergia*.