

ADDENDA TO THE FLORA OF PALESTINE.

I HAVE just received, through the kindness of M. William Barbey, of Valleyres, Vaud, Switzerland, a copy of his splendid illustrated work, "Herborisations au Levant," 4to., Lausanne, 1882, containing the results of a botanical expedition to the East, made by himself and his brother in 1880. I much regret that I had not the good fortune to see the volume before the "Fauna and Flora of Palestine" went to press. MM. Barbey only give the results of their own and Dr. Lortet's expeditions, but even so their catalogue comprises 38 species of phanerogamic plants, 13 of them grasses, which escaped my observation, and which must be added to the 3,012 species in my volume. In order that our catalogue may be as complete as possible, I trust you will afford space in the *Quarterly Statement* for these addenda. They are as follows:—

- Papaveraceæ*. 1. *Glaucium grandiflorum*. Boiss. Diagn., Ser. II, v, p. 15.—Valley of the Kedron. Not hitherto observed in Palestine or Syria.
- Cruciferae*. 2. *Sinapis pubescens*. L. Mant. 95.—Beersheba.
- Resedaceæ*. *Reseda decursiva*. Forsk., æg. p. 67. Included by me as *R. propinqua*, var. *eremophila*. F. and F., p. 234.
3. *Caylusea canescens*. L. Syst. 368, var. *foliosa*, Müll.—Marsaba ; between Jerusalem and Jericho.
- Violariæ*. 4. *Viola occulta*. Lehm., Ind. S. Hamb., 1829.—Near Samaria.
- Sileneæ*. 5. *Silene apetala*. Willd., Sp. II, 307.—In cultivated ground, Valley of Achor.
6. *Silene canopica*. Del., Ill. Fl. Eg., No. 442.—Beersheba.
7. *Silene oxyodonta*. Barbey, spec. nov., Herbor. au Levant, p. 121, Pl. XI.—Plain of Esdraelon.
- Alsineæ*. 8. *Spergularia diandra*. Guss., Prodr. Sic., I, p. 515.—Kedron Valley ; between Jerusalem and Jericho ; by Dead Sea ; Esdraelon.
- Malvaceæ*. 9. *Malva ægyptia*. L. Sp. 981.—Southern Desert. Accidentally omitted in F. and F.
- Leguminosæ*. 10. *Trigonella aleppica*. Boiss., Flor. Or., II, 79.—Valley of the Kedron ; Jenin.
11. *Trifolium bullatum*. Boiss., Flor. Or., II, 138.—Fields near Beyrout.
12. *Glycyrrhiza glabra*. L. Sp. 1048, vars. *typica* and *violacea*.—Jordan Valley ; Wâdy Semakh.
13. *Astragalus trimestris*. L. 1073.—Philistia ; Beersheba.

14. *Astragalus camelorum*. Barbey, spec. nov., Herbor. au Levant, p. 131, Pl. III.—Southern Desert.
15. *Lathyrus setifolius*. L. Sp. 1031.—Southern Philistia.
- Compositæ. 16. *Cynara sibthorpiana*. Boiss. Diagn., Ser. I, x, p. 94.—Jericho.
- Convolvulacæ. 17. *Calystegia soldanella*. L. Sp. 266.—Sea-shore at Sidon.
- Scrophulariaceæ. 18. *Celsia glandulosa* Bouché., Linn., V, Lit. 12.—Valley of the Dog River.
- Labiataæ. 19. *Sideritis taurica*. M. B., Taur. Cauc., II, 43.—On rocks in the Dog River Valley.
- Salsolacæ. 20. *Salsola canescens*. D. C., Prodr., p. 208.—Accidentally omitted in F. and F. Found by us on Lebanon. By MM. Barbey at Marsaba.
- Euphorbiacæ. 21. *Euphorbia parvula*. Del., Eg., p. 290.—In the Southern Desert.
- Salicineaæ. 22. *Salix triandra*. L. Sp. 1442.—Achzib. Not before noticed in Syria.
- Iridacæ. *Iris lorteti*. Barbey, spec. nov., Herbor. au Levant, p. 178, Pl. VII.—This superb Iris, one of the two species mentioned by me (F. and F., p. 423) as found in the woods of Galilee, has been described and beautifully figured in a full-sized coloured plate by MM. Barbey. It was found by Dr. Lortet in the same place where I collected it, near Kulat Hunin, above the waters of Merom.
- Liliacæ. 23. *Bellevalia sessiliflora*. Viv. Fl., Lib. 21, t. vii, f. 5.—Southern Desert.
24. *Muscari holzmanni*. Held., Att. Con. Fir., 228.—Achzib and Beyrout.
- MM. Barbey also mention two undescribed species of *Leopoldia* or *Muscari*—one from the southern desert, the other from the northern coast.
- Orchideæ. 25. *Serapias lingua*. L. Sp. 1344.—Near the Dog River.
- Gramineaæ. 26. *Andropogon rubescens*. Vis., Reg. Bot. Zeit., 1829, p. 3.—Near Ras en Nakurali.
27. *Alopecurus pratensis*. L. Sp. 88.—On the coast.
28. *Cynosurus callitrichus*. Barbey, spec. nov., Herbor. au Levant, p. 165, Pl. X.—Near Hebron and Jerusalem.
29. *Echinaria capitata*. L. Sp. 1488.—General.
30. *Lepturus incurvatus*. L. Sp. 1490.—Near Beyrout.
31. *Bromus rubens*. L. Sp. 114.—Dry places, throughout Southern Palestine.
32. *Lolium rigidum*. Gaud. Helv., I, p. 355.—Various places on the coast.
33. *Sphenopus gouani*. Trin., Fund. Agr., p. 135 = *S. divaricatus* Rehb.—The Ghôr.
34. *Festuca interrupta*. Desf. Atl. I, p. 89.—Waste places, Esdraelon.

35. *Catapodium loliaceum* (Huds. Angl., 43).—On the coast.
 36. *Avena barbata*. Brot., Flora Lus., I, 108.—In the desert and in waste places. This is the unidentified *Avena* of F. and F., p. 444, No. 56, from Moab.
 37. *Trisetum parviflorum*. Pers. Syn., I, 97.—Waste places in Judæa.
 38. *Deschampsia media*. Ræm. el Schultz., S. II, 687.—On the coast near Achzib.

I may also here observe that I have identified the *Phleum*, No. 13, Fauna and Flora, as *P. græcum*. Boiss. Flor. Or., V, p. 481.

Also *Pennisetum*, No. 19, p. 442, F. and F. as *P. ciliare* (L. Mant. 302). *Aristida*, No. 35, p. 443, F. and F., as *A. pumila*. Decaisne, Ann. Sc. Nat., Ser. II, 85.

Gastridium, No. 23, p. 442, F. and F., as *G. scabrum*. Presl., Cyp. Sic., p. 21.

Polypogon, Nos. 50 and 51, p. 444, F. and F., as *P. maritimum*, Willd. Nov. Act., III, p. 443; and *P. littorale*, Smith, Comp. Brit., 13.

Avena, No. 56, p. 444, F. and F., should be *Gaudinia fragilis* (L. Sp. 119).

Bromus, No. 110, p. 445, is *B. fasciculatus*. Presl., Cyp. Sic., 39.

Dactylis, No. 93, p. 447, F. and F., is *D. hispanica*. Roth.; cf. Flor. Or., V, p. 596.

I wish also to correct the following identifications of grasses in the "Fauna and Flora":—

Phalaris canariensis, p. 441, No. 5, should be *P. brachystachya*, Link in Schrad. Journ. 1, 3, as pointed out by Boissier, Flor. Or., V, p. 471.

For *Milium syriacum*, Boiss. No. 119, p. 448, read *M. vernale*, M. B. Taur. Cauc., I, 53, var. *montianum*, Cosson.

For *Melica boissieri*, Reut, No. 83, p. 446, read *M. ciliata* (L. Sp. 97), and erase Nos. 75 and 80, *Briza bipennata* and *Melica minuta*. The former species is identical with No. 87, F. and F., *Eragrostis cynosuroides*.

The long-expected completion of M. Boissier's most exhaustive and accurate work, "Flora Orientalis," of which the concluding part has only just reached me, enables me to revise my catalogue of grasses by the decision of the first living authority on the subject. And I am sure that all practical botanists will deal leniently with omissions and oversights, as well as with the necessity for the corrections enumerated above; well knowing the difficulties of deciding on the often unsatisfactory or mutilated specimens before us, of this most perplexing of all botanical families.

M. Boissier's work enables me to add one species to the *Coniferæ* of Palestine, viz., *Abies cilicica*, Ant. and Ky., Æst. Woch., 18, 53, p. 409. It is the only *Abies* found in the country, and which I now well remember to have seen near Ehden on Lebanon, one of the localities given by Boissier.

Ephedra fragilis, F. and F., p. 452, ought to stand as *E. campylopoda*, C. A. Mey. Eph., 73. The two species have been generally confounded. The distinctions are pointed out by Boissier, *op. cit.*, pp. 714, 715.

I have but one fern to add to my catalogue, the common Adders' tongue, *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (L. Sp. 1518), found near Zebdany. But the number of grasses added to our list by M. Boissier amounts to no fewer than 47, bringing up the whole number of Palestinian *Gramineæ* to 216. I subjoin the names, with the localities given:—

1. *Panicum sanguinale*. L. Sp. 14.—General.
2. *Panicum crus-galli*. L. Sp. 83.—General in fields.
3. *Panicum colonum*. L. Sp. 84.—Coast near Sidon.
4. *Panicum eruciforme*. Sibth. Prodr., I, p. 40.—Ehden on Lebanon.
5. *Panicum numidianum*. Lam. Enc., IV, 749.—Near Beyrout.
6. *Setaria verticillata*. L. Sp. 82.—Near the coast.
7. *Andropogon ischæmum*. L. Sp. 1483.—Lebanon.
8. *Hemarthria fasciculata*. Desf. Atl., I, p. 110, t. 36.—Near Sidon and Beyrout.
9. *Phalaris nodosa*. L. Syst., 38.—Coast and Lebanon.
10. *Heleochloa acutiglumis*. Spec. nov., Boiss., Flor. Or., V, p. 476.—Hadith, Lebanon.
11. *Phleum alpinum*. L. Sp. 88, var. *commutatum*, Gaud.—Snow-line of Lebanon.
12. *Phleum bœhmeri*. Wib., Fl. Wett., p. 125.—Hadith, Lebanon.
13. *Alopecurus gerardi*. Vill. Dauph., II, 66.—Subalpine Lebanon.
14. *Aristida sieberiana*. Trin. in Spring., N. Ent., II, 71.—Near Jerusalem.
15. *Aristida forskahlei*. Tausch., p. 506.—Sands near Beyrout.
16. *Aristella bromoides*. L. Mant., I, 30.—Lebanon above Sidon; Antilebanon above Rascheya.
17. *Agrostis verticillata*. Vill. Dauph., II, 74.—In wet places, general.
18. *Agrostis alba*. L. Sp. 93, var. *scabriglumis*.—Brumman on Lebanon.
19. *Gastridium lendigerum*. L. Sp. 91.—Sidon.
20. *Corynephorus articulatus*. Desf., Fl. Atl., I, 70, Pl. XIII.—Sands, Gaza, Beyrout.
21. *Holcus lanatus*. L. Sp. 1485.—Lebanon.
22. *Holcus annuus*. Salz., Fl. Ting. exs.—Pine forests, Lebanon.
23. *Ventenata blanchei*. Boiss., spec. nov. Flor. Or., V, p. 539.—Cedar grove, Lebanon.
24. *Dactyloctenium ægyptiacum*. L. Sp. 106.—Coast near Sidon.
25. *Cynosurus elegans*. Desf., Atl. I, 82, Pl. XVII.—Hasrun, Lebanon.
26. *Eragrostis poæoides*. P. de B. Agr., 71.—Fields, general.
27. *Eragrostis megastachya*. Link., Hort. Ber., I, 187.—Coast.
28. *Briza spicata*. Sibth., Fl. Græc., I, 61.—Lebanon and Antilebanon.
29. *Poa diversifolia*. Boiss., Bull. S. Fr., 1857, p. 306.—Dimas, Lebanon.
30. *Poa trivialis*. L. Sp. 99.—The coast.
31. *Poa persica*. Trin. in C. A. Mey, Enum., p. 18, var. *alpina*.—Top of Lebanon.
32. *Molinia cœrulea*. L. Sp. 95.—Upper Lebanon.
33. *Glyceria plicata*. Fries, Nov. Mant., III, 176.—In standing water.

34. *Festuca ovina*, var. *pinifolia*. Hackel in litt., Flor. Or., V, 617.—Higher Lebanon.
35. *Scleropoa maritima*. L. Sp. 128.—Coast near Sidon.
36. *Bromus flabellatus*. Hack., Boiss., Flor. Or., V, 648.—Near Jerusalem.
37. *Bromus alopecurus*. Poir. Voy., II, 100.—Galilee and the coast.
38. *Bromus squarrosus*.—L. Sp. 112.—Lebanon.
39. *Bromus brachystachys*. Hornung. Fl., XVI, 2, p. 418.—By the Jordan.
40. *Brachypodium pinnatum*. L. Sp. 115.—Lower Lebanon.
41. *Agropyrum panormitanum*. Parl. Pl., var. Sic. II, p. 20.—Hermon.
42. *Agropyrum repens*. L. Sp. 128.—Lebanon.
43. *Agropyrum elongatum*. Hort., Gr. Austr., II, 15.—Near Beyrout.
44. *Ægilops bicornis*. Forsk., Descr., 26.—Sandy places, coast.
45. *Psilurus nardoides*. Trin. Fund., I, 73.—Coast and interior.
46. *Hordeum secalinum*. Schreb. Spic., 148.—The Lejah.
47. *Elymus debileanus*. Schultz. Mant., 2, 424.—Central Palestine.

H. B. TRISTRAM.

Durham, 26th November, 1884.

A DOLMEN IN THE TALMUD.

“RABBI ISHMAEL said, ‘Three stones beside each other at the side of the image of Markulim are forbidden, but two are allowed. But the wise say when they are within his view they are forbidden, but when they are not within his view they are allowed.’” (Mishnah Aboda Zarah, iv, 1.)

This passage from the tract treating of “Strange Worship” refers to the idolatry of the second and third centuries A.D., before the establishment of Christianity by Constantine. R. Ishmael was a contemporary of Akiba (circa 135 A.D.). From the Babylonian Talmud (Baba Metzia 25 *b*) we learn that these three stones near the “Menhir of Mercury” (for Markulim was Mercury or Hermes, the god of the pillar) were arranged two side by side and the third laid flat across. From another passage (T. B. Beracoth 57 *b*) we gather that such symbols, viz., an “image” (צורה) or Hermes with a tirlithon in front of it, were commonly to be found.

From the Midrash on Proverbs xxvi, 8, we also gather that the cultus of Markulim (or Mercury) consisted in throwing a stone at his image, and it is well known that this practice was connected in Greece with the cultus of Hermes or Mercury.

This trilithon was evidently a dolmen similar to the dolmen tables still erected by the Arabs in Moab, and its connection with a menhir recalls the “Sentinel Stones” which are found in Brittany, Scandinavia, and England, standing in front of a dolmen or trilithon.