

3. Das Araban, welches nach A. Wróblewski die Diastase stets begleitet, ist sicher ein dextrinartiges Umwandlungsprodukt des obengenannten Kohlehydrates.

Die Studien werden fortgesetzt.

Matouschek (Wien).

Howard, A. and L. C. Gabrielle. Studies in Indian Fibre-plants. N. 2. On some new varieties of *Hibiscus cannabinus*, L. and *Hibiscus Sabdariffa*, L. (Memoirs Dept Agric. India, Bot. IV. 2. p. 9—36, with 6 plates. 1911.)

The authors about a year ago (see Bot. Centralblatt, CXVI. p. 359) showed that *Hibiscus cannabinus* at Pura in the Gangetic Plain is rather commonly cross-fertilised, but that *H. Sabdariffa* is self-fertilised. They then mentioned that they had cultivated several varieties of each of these species; in the present paper these varieties are described and figured. In chief part the varieties are what the writer as a systematic botanist would prefer to call races. They are as follows:

H. cannabinus, var. *simplex*. Stems. purple; leaves entire, with purple petioles; var. *viridis* as the last in foliage, but the purple colour is absent from the plant; var. *ruber* stem red below, greenish above, leaves divided, with green petioles; var. *purpureus* as the last in foliage, but purple colour as in var. *simplex*; var. *vulgaris* as the third in foliage, but the red or purple colour is absent.

The last two the authors divide into types chiefly by earliness or lateness.

H. Sabdariffa, var. *ruber* stem and petiole entirely red, pulvinus and calyx red, flowers on withering turning pink; var. *albus* stem, petiole and pulvinus green, calyx yellowish, flowers on withering remain yellow; var. *intermedius* stem and petiole green with some red, pulvinus red, calyx yellowish green, flowers on withering remain yellow; var. *bhagalpuriensis* stem and petiole green with some red, pulvinus green, calyx green with red splashes, slightly more obtuse and more twisted than in any other of the three foregoing varieties, flowers on withering turn pink.

The authors name important features other than are given in their definitions, which they have noticed, such as degree of fertility, and habit. Full descriptions and figures amplify the definitions. They point out that seedling differences exist which can serve the cultivators as eye-marks whereby to keep their crops approximately pure by weeding out divergent forms in thinning. I. H. Burkill.

Personalnachricht.

Deceased: Sir **Joseph Dalton Hooker** on Sunday December 10. at ninetyfour years of age. The offer of burial in Westminster Abbey had to be declined by the family as it was Sir Joseph's express wish that he should be buried by the side of his Father at Kew. (Nature).

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