

JOHN SCAMPTON (fl. 1696).

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IN this Journal for 1909 (pp. 99–103), under the heading “A Seventeenth Century English Botanist” I gave some account of the Rev. Matthew Dodsworth (fl. 1660–90), whose plants are in the Sloane Herbarium (H. S. 27) and from whom letters are included in the Sloane MSS. My work upon the Sloane Herbarium Catalogue has incidentally led to a considerable acquaintance with others of about the same period whose knowledge of British plants was considerable, but of whom little beyond their names is known. I have thought that this information, derived as it is mostly from inedited sources, might be of sufficient interest for publication in this Journal, in which I therefore propose from time to time to place it on record.

To the subject of the present notice we are indebted for the addition of *Calamagrostis lanceolata* Roth to the British Flora. The first record of this is given by Petiver in his *Concordia Graminum*, &c. (1716) p. 3, as follows:—

“69 Small *Rheed* (sic) *Grass*. *Calamagrostis minor* glumis russis & viridibus. Qr? Gramen *Arund.* panicula molli spadicea minus CB 7. 4. Its *Panicles* some green, others brown and yellowish, are smaller and more loose than the *Wood Rheed*. The first discovery of this Grass is owing to Mr. John Scampton a Curious Botanist, who sent it me from *Leicestershire*.”

Of this there are excellent specimens in Herb. Sloane 329, f. 36, to which this printed account is attached with a further ticket in Petiver's hand:—“Gr. arundinaceum locustis aureis nob. This I found very plentifully all along y^e side of a moat neer Huntingdon; it grew 3 or 4 feet high but most of it lay in y^e ground; it rises so tall and y^e stalke so weake, it could not stand upright (Scampt. see his letter Jan. 22, 1698).” Another specimen of the plant is in Buddle's herbarium (H. S. 125, f. 11) labelled “Gramina tomentosa a D. Scampton in agro Northampt. circa Oundle collecta.” Unfortunately it is impossible to carry out Petiver's direction to “see” Scampton's letter, for although copies of Petiver's replies to Scampton are in Sloane MSS. 3332–3, nothing from the latter seems to have been preserved. It is evident from the replies that Scampton was a competent botanist and much interested in the flora of his neighbourhood. Petiver's earliest letter to him (3332, f. 63 back), in which he acknowledges “yours from Huntingdon,” is not dated—it was probably written in 1695: it includes lists of plants as to which Scampton had consulted him, with interesting critical notes, and asks that further specimens of numerous species might be sent to him. Petiver mentions especially a grass which “seems different from y^e gr. *Arundinaceum* Raii Syn. 185: pray send me more of it in its several states”; it was probably in answer to this that the excellent examples now in Herb. Sloane were sent, with the letter from which an extract has already been given. Petiver urges

Scampton to collect all the grasses he can find, "among which tribe I doubt not but you may make some discoveries." Another list of plants sent by Scampton, undated but probably of this period, with letters partly undecipherable, is in 3340 ff. 204 *sqq.* Petiver urged Scampton to continue to send plants, for which a "retalliation" in kind—to "retalliate" in this sense was a common expression with Petiver—is promised. Most of the letters however are concerned with insects, chiefly butterflies and beetles, with which Scampton seems to have been well acquainted: he also paid some attention to shells.

Although there is no positive evidence that Scampton lived at Huntingdon, for Petiver unfortunately did not note the addresses of his correspondents on the copies of his letters to them, the plants sent for the most part are those of the Midlands. He also botanized "amongst the Peak-Moors in Derbyshire," whence Petiver, who styles him an "ingenious botanist," records a moss of his finding hitherto undescribed (Mus. Pet. n. 74)—apparently *Grimmia aquatica*; as well as further north, for Petiver refers to a specimen of *Saxifraga stellaris* which he had sent. Among his contemporaries Scampton was friendly with William Vernon, at whose house at Cambridge Petiver hoped to have met him in 1696. One or two of the letters are addressed to "Dr." Scampton, but this I think was accidental. Although none are of later date than 1698, he was probably alive when the *Concordia* was published in 1716.

SHORT NOTES.

ORCHIS PRÆTERMISSA Druce.—In the Proceedings of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire for 1914 (pp. 30–33) Mr. Druce figures and describes under this name an orchis allied to *O. latifolia* and *O. incarnata* but considered by him distinct from both. Of this Latin and English descriptions are given, the latter of which is here transcribed:—"Root two palmate tubers, with long stout rootlets. Stem hollow, 6–18 inches. Leaves normally linear-lanc., narrowing from a broad base to the hooded apex, usually gradually, sometimes unequally, and sometimes somewhat broader in the middle; yellowish green, green or greyish or darker green, unspotted erect or ascending. Bracts often coloured, as long as or longer than flowers. Flowers conspicuous, of various shades of rose-purple, reddish, or dark crimson purple, in a more or less lax cylindric or conical spike. Lip broad (as broad as long), flat, more or less distinctly three lobed, the central lobe smaller, and slightly longer, as long or slightly shorter than the lateral lobe, the sides not reflexed, marked with spots, lines, or blotches of a darker colour, or more rarely in a geometric pattern with defined margins. Viewed from in front the flowers look broad and showy. Upon petals converging into a hood. Upper sepals usually somewhat paler, divaricate. Spur shorter than ovary, curved, cylindric. Flowering usually 10–14 days later than *incarnata*."