

NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF XANTHIUM SPINOSUM: LINNÆUS.

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This plant, though generally affecting a more southerly climate, appears to have established itself in the sheltered valley of Dundas, at the western extremity of Lake Ontario; the only spot in Western Canada in which it is known to occur. Though it has been noticed here for at least seven or eight years past, it does not appear to have extended its area of growth to any adjoining locality; and if the facility with which the seeds attach themselves to passing objects and are thus transported, be taken into account, the restriction of its growth to this one place seems owing to the unsuitability of the climate in places less sheltered than the Dundas valley.

In common with a host of other plants now thoroughly naturalized on this continent, this species has been introduced from Europe, but whether it has been brought to this northern continent directly, or by the circuitous way of South America, is open to question. Linnæus gives its habitat as France and Portugal; it has come under my own notice in Italy; and in Loudon's *Encyclopædia of Botany*, it is noted as growing in the South of Europe generally. In Buenos Ayres, and some other Provinces of the Argentine Republic in South America, the soil and climate are very favourable to its growth, and by means of the numerous cattle and sheep which pasture on the fenceless pampas, the seeds are readily distributed. The great extension of sheep-farming in these countries within the last few years has been the means of very widely spreading this troublesome weed, for not only do the sheep transport the burrs in the wool, but they feed down closely the native flora, and thus afford a better opportunity for this intruder to gain a root-hold. Thus districts in the pampas previously free from this weed, become, very soon after the introduction of sheep, infested with it. There is every probability that the