

or even in such as are only a few miles distant from the shore, is very marked. It appears, therefore, to be especially desirable, in recording localities for its occurrence, to note their distance from seaboard or great lakes. I have already endeavored to impress upon observers the consideration that the only reliable material for tracing geographical distribution must consist of substantial data, actual local observations carefully noted and authenticated by specimens, corrected, reduced and compared, after the manner of H. C. Watson, and left on record in such form as to render elimination of errors possible, and that mere general impressions received by travellers over the country, although often of great practical value, are not to be regarded as absolute scientific results. * In the early days, when Douglas and Thomas Drummond were solitary wanderers over the Continent, and Menzies was touching the coast at Chebucto and nameless points on the Northern Pacific shores, every scrap of information, and especially their notes on range of species, was of substantial value, but now we have the means of working out problems by more systematic and scientific methods, and of eliminating the errors of individual observation.†

2. *PICEA NIGRA*, Link, in Linnæa xv, p. 520.

The black spruce is a sombre tree, the old bark of dark color, the surface of young shoots of the year of a dark brown, and clothed with a short sparse fur of thick short curved trichomes. The foliage is of a decidedly dark green colour, but distinctly glaucous or hoary. The leaves are short, almost straight, radiating from the branch in a bottle brush fashion at a nearly uniform angle except that they are turned away from the lower surface of the branch. The leaves (as in other species) vary in size with vigor of tree, but are always much shorter than in the other species, and blunt at the apex. The cones, when young, are of a deep purple, or purpurascenscent color, becoming reddish-brown as they ripen, darkening with age, and ultimately changing to a deep dark gray-black when old. The other species drop their cones during the first winter after they are formed; *P. nigra* retains them for several years, the recent crop of the

* See Trans. Royal Soc. of Canada, Vol. II. Sec. iv. p. 16.

† *Abies arctica*, Murray, Seeman's Journal, 1867, p. 273, cum ic., is referred by Parlatores as a variety of *alba*.—DC, Prodrornus, XVI, p. 414. On same page there is description of something no doubt quite different, *Abies arctica*, Cunningh., ex Henk. & Hochst. This is referred to *rubra*.