

At the time when the plant was first detected at Belleville its isolation there would have appeared still more pronounced if the matter of its very sparing occurrence in North America had been taken into consideration; for in 1378, when Professor John Macoun brought forward specimens from there, the Virginian habitat was not yet known, and the nearest known stations for it eastward and southward were as very far away as Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky. At Norfolk, Virginia, it was not detected until 1893, or fifteen years later than Professor Macoun's obtaining it at Belleville.

Mr. F. V. Coville, the discoverer of the Norfolk habitat, remarked that the plant had the appearance of a recent arrival there; but in the case of the station in Ontario, Professor Macoun registers no suspicion that it is other than indigenous there. Indeed, he took it to be native, as we shall see later; and in this he may have submitted to the opinion of authors within the United States, not one of whom, in writing of *M. minimus* as occurring with us here, and there southward and far westward, expresses a doubt about its being native. Accepting this doctrine, there was, with the discoverer of the Ontario station, no occasion to question how the plant came there, however strangely isolated it was. But here I must reproduce his very interesting first notes about it in the first volume of the Catalogue of the Plants of Canada, P. 15.

"On ground subject to overflow and on limestone shingle at the ferry house opposite Belleville, Ontario; rocky pastures west of Albert College, Belleville, Ontario."

Here are given as many as three different kinds of environment for the plant as it was found growing in the vicinity of Belleville, now almost forty years since; and I know of no other more recent mention of *Myosurus* as being there. Results of a diligent, renewed investigation of the locality after so long a lapse of time would be very interesting, whatever they might be. One thing, however, which the language of Professor Macoun suggests to me is the possibility of there being in the Belleville neighborhood more than one species of the genus. I refer to the different kinds of environment, in each of which he found the plant growing. The expression, "ground subject to overflow", though not very definite, implies the prevalence of a good degree of moisture; but whether some stretch of low plain be meant where a temporary pool is formed after every good rain, or whether it were a stream bank where waters rise and fall at intervals—all these are uncertainties. But the European plant is said to grow there nowhere but in low, moist lands. This is not, however, true of all the