

## ON THE ECONOMICAL USES OF STICTA PULMONARIA HOFFM.

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The Lichen which forms the subject of the present paper, I have selected, not so much on account of any marked interest that is to be attached to it from the beauty of its structure,<sup>7</sup> or the variety of its economical applications, as from its being one of the most common Lichens in our vicinity—so common, in fact, and so conspicuous from its large, handsome thallus, that it cannot but have attracted the notice of many of you. It occurs upon several kinds of trees, among which may be mentioned the Oak, Beach, Ash, and Maple, as well as upon rocks in moist situations. Saxicolous specimens, however, although sometimes very large, are generally sterile. Its geographical range is not very great when compared with some others of our Lichens, which are almost cosmopolites. Yet, besides occurring in Canada, it has been found in India upon the Himalayas, in Siberia, Britain, Sweden, Norway, France and Germany. Small and delicate as this Lichen is, when compared with the "time-stained" trunks upon which it flourishes, yet it is known to attain a very great age, one author stating that, after the lapse of upwards of fifty years, he had, upon the same tree, noticed the same specimen of *Sticta pulmonaria*, in precisely the same position.

It would be altogether foreign to the object of this paper to enter minutely into the distinctive characters of this Lichen; suffice it to say that it may be easily recognized from other species of the same genus, as well as from other Lichens generally, by its greenish or olive-colored thallus, which is reticulately pitted in a very perceptible manner, and frequently roughened by pale soredia; by the under surface being marked by gibbi, or discolored spots; and by the lacinae or marginal segments of the thallus being broad, elongated, and very abruptly terminated. When moist, it is of a more or less vivid hue, which, on drying, changes to olive brown.

In treating of the economical uses of *Sticta pulmonaria*, I purpose making the following divisions, viz., first, its use as an article of food; secondly, its employment as a medicine; and thirdly, its applications in the arts. First, then, in regard to its use as an article of food, There is a marked resemblance in properties