

becoming nearly glabrous in this intermediate form. According to Hooker's description and figure the capsule is glabrous; but glabrous forms are not so common as tomentose. They occur both on the mainland and on Vancouver Island.

S. Hookeriana flowers at Vancouver in March, shortly after *S. Scouleriana*, from which it is easily distinguished by its furry-tomentose branchlets, which are very brittle at a point just above the fork; by its long style and short stigmas, and by its usually very large, erect, fertile catkins. *S. Scouleriana* has little or no style, long stigmas, merely puberulent branchlets and the fertile catkins soon recurve. The staminate catkins of *S. Hookeriana* are larger than those of *S. Scouleriana*, and sometimes in two sets—the second set not flowering for a month or six weeks after the first, when apparently no late pistillate catkins are in flower. It rarely produces stipules, a point about which Hooker is doubtful.

The closest allies of *S. Hookeriana* in British Columbia seem to be *S. Barrattiana* of the Rockies, which always has large stipules, and *S. Piperi* Bebb, if a few clumps occurring at Vancouver can be so assigned. These clumps have large, oblong leaves shining above and glaucous-pubescent below, and so far agree very well with Bebb's description; but the branches are slightly pubescent, the leaves firm rather than thin, and the capsule may have a very slight pubescence at the apex. The willow is thus, as far as the pistillate plant is concerned, intermediate between the form of *S. Hookeriana* with glabrous or slightly pubescent capsules, and *S. Piperi*. The staminate flowers have not been observed.

In the autumn form this willow quite differs from *S. Hookeriana*. Its leaves turn yellow, and fall late; while those of *S. Hookeriana* turn more or less blackish, and fall earliest of the coast willows. As the type of *S. Piperi* came from Seattle, this species may be expected to occur in southern British Columbia.

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MEETING OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

Held at the University Club rooms, 150 Elgin Street, on the evening of January 17th, the following members being present: E. D. Eddy, R. B. Whyte, L. H. Newman, C. J. Tulley, T. W. Dwight and J. R. Fryer.

Mr. L. H. Newman led in the discussion of a review of some recent work dealing with the phenomenon of variation in plants. He first reviewed some work done by Fruwirth on potatoes. Fruwirth investigated the variations occurring in successive