

ANOTHER LOCALITY FOR *ERUCA SATIVA*.

To Mr. Macoun's report in the October issue of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, of the discovery of the European plant *Eruca sativa*, in two widely separated parts of Canada, I am able to add another distinct locality; namely, Preston, Waterloo County, Ontario. The plant was found in flower about the first of August, in a small field of lucerne, which had been sown in June. It was present in considerable quantity, and had been passed over as ordinary mustard (*Brassica Sinapisrum*), until one day when I went into the field and saw it at close quarters. The habit of growth, size and superficial resemblance of leaves and flowers contribute to this similarity to mustard. A glance was sufficient, however, to show that it was something new. On endeavoring to determine the species of the plant, I found myself beaten; and all our efforts to trace it out in both American and English botanies proved futile. On October 31st I took advantage of an opportunity to show my specimens to Dr. Fletcher, Ottawa, who having just read the aforementioned report, and also having seen the plant in Europe many years ago, identified it as *Eruca*.

There are several characters by which this plant can be quite readily distinguished from wild mustard. The leaves are always more or less deeply lobed pinnately. The flowers are not quite so brightly colored, and the petals are distinctly veined with purple. When the plant has developed pods, it can be known with certainty by these. The whole upper third of the pod is a flat empty beak.

A noteworthy peculiarity about the plants which I have seen is their extreme variability, apart altogether from the influence upon them of crowding by other plants, or of any of the conditions of growth, so far as I have been able to observe. This is shown most strikingly in the leaves and pods. In some specimens the leaves are only very slightly lobed, while in others they are cut in almost to the midrib. The pods vary in shape, those on some plants being shorter and plumper than on others. Some pods, too, are nearly smooth, while those on other plants have a dense pubescence.

I have not as yet been able to learn anything definitely about the source of the seed with which this weed was introduced. It seems probable that the infestations so far known about, may have entered the country together, since the medium in each case is the same; and that there may be therefore many more to be heard from when the weed becomes known.

H. GROH.