

There are before me two sheets of specimens, both of which were collected—one of them fifty years since, the other seventy—by the late Mr. John Ball, and which must be understood to represent the plant of Lloyd, of Bobart and of Ray. One of the sheets Mr. Ball gathered in 1859 on mountains near Llanberis, North Wales—the very region whence *T. alpinum* was first obtained—the other is from Glen Isla, Forfarshire, Scotland. In the interests of the future investigation of the alpine meadow-rue in America I shall here give a precise account of these two sheets of British and indubitably typical specimens. Those from Wales are in flower only, those from Scotland in fruit.

Plants at early flowering $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, the leaves themselves 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, normally of 11 leaflets, these broad at base and with little suggestion of the cunate, the whole leaflet broader than long, the terminals 3-lobed, the laterals 5-lobed, all lobes obtuse; upper face dark-green and polished, lower face glaucous, but between the veins only, the veins themselves, fine, delicate, not at all prominent, deep-green, in no degree glaucous; fruiting pedicels long, filiform, firmly ascending, but abruptly curved downwards just under the head of carpels.

Nothing well answering to the Welsh and typical *Thalictrum alpinum* is known to occur on our side of the Atlantic; yet in North America, north of the British Boundary, there exist at least three notably different plants, all of which are in so far at agreement with genuine *T. alpinum* as to admit of their being treated as varieties of it, if not indeed as sub-species. Their proposed names, and the peculiar marks of each, are subjoined.

THALICTRUM ALPINUM, var. GASPENSE. Plant of twice the size of the type, often 6 or 8 inches high; leaflets normally 11, longer than broad, manifestly cuneate, less deeply lobed, dark-green and lustrous above, glaucous beneath even to the veins and veinlets, these more prominent than in the type, and colored green only during early stages; pedicels filiform, spreading away from the rhachis and curved downward throughout their whole length, never abruptly bent under the fruit; carpels (immature) 3 or 4.

Damp ledges, on the banks of the Grand River, Gaspé Co., Quebec, 30 June and 3 July, 1904, M. L. Fernald.

THALICTRUM ALPINUM, var. MICROSPERMUM. Plant very tall, often a foot high; leaflets normally 11, always longer than broad, cuneate, few more than 3-lobed, deep-green and shining above, very white beneath with bloom even to the not very prominent veins and veinlets; pedicels short, firm, even wiry, curved throughout and not at summit only; carpels minute, obliquely oblong-oval, sessile, seemingly one only from each flower.