

THALICTRUM ZIBELLINUM. Usually a foot high, sometimes larger, slender but firm, with striate stem leafy to the summit, glabrous below the summit; leaves of a dull bluish green above, glaucous beneath, all except the floral glabrous on both faces, the floral with traces of some minute pubescence; terminal leaflets about $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch wide above the middle, the length a trifle less, rather deeply and not very unequally 3-lobed, the lobes broader than long and very obtuse, laterals smaller, oval, mostly entire; panicles small, rather compact; sepals of staminate plant round-ovate, very obtuse; filaments gradually clavellate from the base, at summit not approaching the width of the anthers, also not very long; anthers oblong, obtuse; sepals of pistillate plant oval, obtuse or abruptly acute, glabrous, deciduous; immature carpels short pubescent.

The type specimens of this small member of the white-stamened group are in Herb. Geol. Surv., No. 21,134, and were obtained on Sable Island, off Nova Scotia, July 26 to Aug. 8, 1899, by Mr. Macoun. These appear to represent a plant strictly dioecious.

HOUSE-FLIES AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH.*

BY C. GORDON HEWITT, D.Sc., F.E.S.,
Dominion Entomologist, Ottawa.

In a city like Ottawa and in many other Canadian cities the house-fly problem and the dangers resulting therefrom are of far greater and more vital importance than one is accustomed to find in other cities of less rapid growth and longer establishment. Certain facts, to which reference will be made later, are present which increase the potential danger, already very great, of these ubiquitous pests. Whether you penetrate the huts of the Lapps or swelter in the burning heat of an equatorial clime you will not be permitted to forget the existence of the "domestic" house-fly; there are no means of escape; by street-car, by Pullman or by liner it has a free pass. A fearless, dashing and careless mass of heat-infused vitality. Let the day be cool or dull *Musca domestica*, as the great name giver Linnaeus described it, is obsessed with inertia, but an hour's sunshine or a warm room and it is as attentive as ever. The activities of most living beings, not excluding man, are dependent on the great source of energy, the sun, but the question of temperature is a matter of

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