

THE OTTAWA NATURALIST

VOL. XXIV. OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER, 1910

No. 6

FERN HUNTING IN ONTARIO.

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III.—THE ADDER'S TONGUE FAMILY.

The Virginia Rattlesnake, our commonest Grape Fern, is so familiar a sight in our woods that I suppose no fern-hunter can well help being acquainted with it. It looks much like a Bracken, the sterile frond being more or less tripartite with the divisions compoundly pinnate and much dissected; but the base of the stipe is usually reddish and up from the centre of the sterile frond projects the fruiting spike; this ripens in June or July and soon after begins to wither away. There is another species, stouter and much more fleshy, which fruits in September or October, the Ternate Grape Fern (*Botrychium obliquum*). It was early in August that I first found this plant. Its dark-green fleshy sterile frond is not so finely dissected as that of *B. virginianum* and is more or less prostrate or decumbent on the ground; it grows on a long stalk from near the base of the main stipe; the fruiting spike is also thicker and heavier than that of the Virginia Rattlesnake. Its favorite habitat is at the edge of a wood in short dry turf with a sandy or crumbly soil; often in or about cedar alleys, but not deeply shaded in the woods themselves as the Virginia Rattlesnake usually is. Probably many of my readers have never been lucky enough to find more species of *Botrychium* than these two; but I have had the good fortune to find (I believe) all the species known to boreal America, except the famous Moonwort (*B. Lunaria*).

At the end of June in my first season's fern-hunting (1906), I took two of the schoolboys out to a tamarack swamp near Newtonville, 10 miles west of Port Hope. Our intention was to combine botany with entomology, my pupils being, like myself, interested in coleoptera. In a corner of this swamp is a dense damp cedar wood, forming part of the belt of woodlands enclosing the swamp. Along its inner side, among sphagnum, cranberries and pitcher-plants, grow the *Arethusa*, the *Pogonia*, the *Calopogon* and the *Cypripedium spectabile*; and right in the cedar wood (which contains also a few spruces) I knew were some