

BOTANICAL NOTES.

RIBES RUBRUM, L.

Mr. M. L. Fernald in *Rhodora* vol. IX, pp. 1-5 separates the species that have been referred to *R. rubrum*. There are two cultivated species of red currant, the one, *R. rubrum*, has the calyx somewhat cup-shaped, brown or mottled with red and destitute of a disk, the other, *R. vulgare*, Lam., has a flat, yellowish green calyx and bears a prominent disk. The latter is the common species of cultivation. Mr. Fernald does not know of the occurrence of *R. rubrum* in a wild state in America and all our specimens are plainly referable to *R. vulgare*. Of the indigenous wild currant Mr. Fernald recognizes two varieties, *R. triste*, Pall., and *R. triste* var. *albinervium* (Mx.) Fernald. The latter has the leaves sparingly pubescent beneath when young, soon glabrate, and is by far the most common red currant in Canada, ranging from Nova Scotia to Alaska. *R. triste* is permanently white tomentose beneath, and though its range is stated by Mr. Fernald to be "Newfoundland to Alaska," it has been seldom collected in Canada, and when the habitat is given it has always been where the rock of the vicinity is calcareous.

PRIMULA FARINOSA, L.

Mr. Fernald separates this widely distributed species into *P. farinosa* and three varieties—*Americana*, *macropoda* and *incana*. Typical specimens of all four are found among the large series of Canadian specimens in our herbarium, but intermediate forms also occur, especially in the west. As shown by our specimens, *P. farinosa* is confined to Labrador and Newfoundland, *Americana* to the vicinity of the Great Lakes, and *incana* to the Rocky Mountains and western Alberta, while *macropoda* ranges from Labrador to the Mackenzie River. In the west it is sometimes difficult to decide whether flowering specimens should be called *incana* or *macropoda* but *incana* is the characteristic plant of the foot-hills and *macropoda* of the prairies. *Americana* as described by Mr. Fernald, however, might well be considered a species, its very short bracts and calyx separating it from *macropoda* and *incana* and the sulphur-yellow powder of the under surface of the leaves from *P. farinosa*. Our specimens of *Americana* are from Johnstone's Harbour, Lake Huron and from Lake Superior, the latter specimens collected by Prof. Macoun, July 16th, 1869. We have also very characteristic specimens from Michigan.

J. M. M.