

white.† To every one knowing American meadow rues such an expression will seem to point to something belonging to the group of *T. polygamum*; yet when he assures us that the plant he has in mind is hardly a foot high, and is also distinguished from all other members of the genus by a drooping foliage, we seem to see that he probably had something of this *T. dioicum* sort before him.

I have met with no good evidence that this type of *Thalictrum* was known before Kalm; though Philip Miller says that Parkinson grew the plant a hundred years earlier.‡ I can not, however, verify this by anything which I find in Parkinson.

Out of that multitude of things which, while answering to the Linnæan account of the size and habit of *T. dioicum*, are still widely dissimilar among themselves in essential marks of flower and fruit, it is necessary that some one marked type be selected, and that of necessity arbitrarily, to be described, as not one of them ever yet has been, with something approaching fulness and precision. To such a type, though arbitrarily chosen from among others, the name *T. dioicum* may be assigned, according to the now prevailing custom; though from several points of view it would seem wiser to abandon that name altogether, as one that has never been adequately published.

*THALICTRUM DIOICUM.* *Thalictrum dioicum*, Linn., Sp. Pl. 545. Stem solitary, 1-2 feet high, upright from a tuft of fleshy-fibrous widely spreading and not deeply seated roots; leaves 2 or 3, ample for so small a plant, long-petioled, thin and delicate, deep-green above, pale beneath, glabrous; terminal leaflets in maturity 1 inch broad or more, of suborbicular outline, commonly with subcordate base, the length seldom quite equalling the breadth, primary lobes 3, reaching to near the middle, the central one broadly equally and shortly 3-lobed, the other two unequally 2-lobed, or sometimes entire, all lobes short and very obtuse; lateral leaflets smaller, in general 3-5-lobed with little or no distinction of primary and secondary lobes: staminate plant with fewer flowers and less ample inflorescence than the pistillate, its sepals 4, oval, obtuse, thin, pale, often purplish-tinged, delicately parallel-veined; anthers green, not quite as long as the purplish filaments, linear, acutely rather long-pointed: achenes rather light-green, less than 5 mm. long, of somewhat obliquely elliptic outline, the about 10 ribs thick but acutely edged, the furrows between them as broad and acute.

Billings' Bridge, Ottawa, Ont., J. M. Macoun, 12 May, 1891,

† Linn. Sp. Pl. 545.

‡ Mill. Dict. Ed. vii (1749).