

LA. Smith  
1930-322

THE GREEN PERSIMMON

The only paper published by the Department of Botany of N. C. State College with a circulation larger than the Department thinks desirable.

Local Flora

The Green Persimmon is able to announce the discovery of an entirely new order of plants in North Carolina. Reports emanating from State College indicate the recent discovery of a remarkable new group of plants. The economic value of the new species is still a matter of speculation but we are able to present today the first description together with a simplified key to the species.

A New Order With Simplified Key.

Facultas Botanicea.

1. Head exceedingly hirsute. Hairs not less than 20 cm. long, facial epidermis light colored, glabrous or nearly so, feet small, enclosed in thin leathery exocarp. Phyto feminae. 6

1. Head more or less hirsute often showing glabrous areas. Hairs usually less than 20 cm. in length, facial epidermis darker, pubescent to tomentose, feet large, covered with thick leathery exocarp. Phyto masculinae. 2

2. With hirsute adornment of strigose hairs below nasal orifice. Wellsonia gyrata

2. Without hirsute adornment of strigose hairs below nasal orifice. 3.

3. Ocular organs covered with transparent siliceous shields. 4

3. Ocular organs without transparent siliceous shields. 5

4. Cranial surface covered with dark hairs, glabrous areas visible in places. Lehmania pathogenica

4. Cranial surface densely tomentose, hairs light brown to yellow. Whitfordia noctiflora

4. Cranial surface sparsely pubescent, hairs light brown, glabrous areas prominent. Species very robust. Shunkia rotunda

5. Inhabitant of higher altitudes, frequently surrounded by nicotine fumes, species vigorous, robust. Poolia gigantea

5. Inhabitant of lower altitudes, rarely found in higher regions, nicotine fumes less dense, often absent, maximum size less than six feet. Andersonia barbarica

6. Ocular organs covered with transparent siliceous shields. Lehmania domestica

6. Ocular organs without transparent siliceous shields. 7
7. Head covered with curly hair, color various. 8
7. Head covered with straight hair, length and color various. 10
8. Hairs auburn to red gold in color, abundant.  
Shunkia grandiflora
8. Hairs neither auburn nor red gold in color. 9
9. Tall and slender, migratory, found associated with Iris  
and in cultivated gardens. Wellsonia gracilis
9. Not tall and slender, genial and active.  
Poolia genialis
10. Hair short, light brown to yellow, facial epidermis light  
in color. Whitfordia neophyta
10. Hairs dark and longer. Andersonia atletica

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The Green Persimmon takes great pleasure in announcing its enthusiastic support of the movement for bigger and better greetings. It is no longer desirable that botanists should continue to use the time worn, bromidic greetings in common use. Botanists should have their own greetings as well as their own profanity. On meeting a fellow botanist try one of the following:

- (a). How's the meristem pulsating?
- (b). How's your turgidity?
- (c). How's mitosis?
- (d). How's the O.P?
- (e). How's your pH?
- (f). How's colloidal hydration?

Exclamations especially suitable for the use of Botanists when angry, surprised or provoked:

- (a). Peziza!
- (b). Helvelliales!
- (c). Laboulbeniales!
- (d). Bizzozera!

And for special occasions:

Pseudolizonia spumatoria

Gibberella saubenettii.

Department Research Projects.

Enormous side drafts in cigars, particularly in those of moderate price, has focused attention of the Botany Department upon the problem of producing stomata free tobacco leaves. Dr. Lehman in charge of this work is enthusiastic over the prospects and states that he expects to revolutionize the entire cigar industry. While to date experiments have not been entirely successful Dr. Lehman foresees great possibilities. He hopes to apply his results when completely successful to other plants particularly cotton and soybeans thus preventing transpiration. This will mean, he says, no worries about rain for the farmer, and contented plants on contented farms. Dr. Poole who is testing the new leaves in his cigars finds the fumes thicker and denser than ever. "Perfectly marvelous", Dr. Poole remarked, as he staggered from the thick blue fog, "perfectly marvelous"!

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Dr. Poole's now famous discovery is bringing more and more distinction to the venerable experimenter. "My idea was really very simple", Dr. Poole said modestly, "it occurred to me that we might induce intra molecular respiration in grapes and dewberries by cutting off the oxygen supply. My experiments completely confirmed my theory. Alcohol is readily formed inside the fruits, stimulating the plants to unusual activity. Crushing the intoxicated fruits produces delightful beverages." It is needless to state that Dr. Poole's laboratory experiments are being eagerly followed by large and enthusiastic crowds of students and visitors. Dr. Poole predicts that prohibition will soon be only a memory and that his new respiratory regulators will be installed in every vineyard. There is a marked increase in interest in grape culture thruout the entire country.

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Members of the Department staff will be interested to learn that Patterson Hall is to be remodelled. "We expect to leave no stone unturned", the president stated recently, "to put Patterson Hall in perfect condition". Funds are available in ample amounts to make the building a model of perfectly equipped laboratories for biological work. We have decided to provide the Botany Department with everything it may request, both as to equipment and staff members. The Department is to have a library second to none, in charge of an experienced librarian. We have ordered three hundred research microscopes for use of staff and students. Drs. Lehman, Shunk, and Anderson have been sent upon a tour of the large biological laboratories of the country to obtain ideas for equipping their new laboratories in Patterson Hall. An acre of new green house space has been added, automatic temperature control and humidity regulators will be installed. Private offices equipped with every modern conveniences will be available for faculty and advanced students. The exact time of these proposed changes is at present uncertain but we hope to have the work completed by the end of the summer".

Professor Whitford's new radio idea detector is now being installed in all class rooms of the Department. Dr. Wells will soon give all the G. B. lectures from his office by radio. The ideas will move into the class rooms with velocities proportional to their mass. Here they strike a baffle board and are deflected into compartments. Effervescent and volatile ideas escape, weighty, massive ideas remain behind until gathered by interested students. It is expected that the new apparatus will greatly increase scholarship standing among botany students.

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The Shunkian method of controlling diseases caused by bacterial parasites is attracting the attention of physicians all over the world. Dr. Shunk has shown that bacteria respond to kindness and courteous treatment in a most gratifying manner. "Our earlier attempts to attack and kill bacteria, by boiling, freezing, poisons and other savage methods, aroused tremendous resentment among this much misunderstood group of plants", Dr. Shunk stated recently. "My long experience with bacteria", he continued, "has convinced me that they are perfectly harmless when treated with the courtesy and respect that their importance demands. Bacteria make attractive and instructive companions. They can be trained by patience and understanding to respond to their master's voice. I have only to step into my culture room and whistle softly to produce a noticeable agitation in the cultures."

"I firmly believe", Dr. Shunk concluded, "that application of the Shunkian methods will banish bacterial diseases from man and if we treat bacteria kindly our rewards will be beyond our fondest hopes, and our present troubles will soon disappear."

### Sense Amid Nonsense

This first and possibly only edition of the Green Persimmon is dedicated to the chief, Dr. Wells, whose enthusiasm, and energy stimulate all of us, whose generosity and constant loyalty, whose good sense and never failing good humor make membership in our Department genuinely pleasant and thoroughly worth while.

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As a special feature of this issue, the Green Persimmon has employed at enormous expense the service of a famous artist to sketch Dr. Wells' portrait. It is our intention to present the original to Dr. Wells but a photographic copy is mounted below for the benefit of our readers.