

they were grown, nor did fertilization follow when pollen was transferred to the stigmas by hand, although both *L. syphilitica* and *L. cardinalis*, near by, had well developed pods of fertile seeds.

The reverse cross of the hybrid was not obtained by Mr. Leavitt, but according to Carl Friedrich v. Gärtner in his "Versuche und Beobachtungen über die Bastarderzeugung im Pflanzenreich," page 223, it is not distinguishable from *Lobelia* × *syphilitico-cardinalis*. Often when species much given to variation are crossed, the hybrid progeny is apt to present many puzzling combinations of the parental traits. This frequently gives origin to the belief that certain peculiarities may be accounted for by the rôle played by the parent species according as one or the other happens to be male or female. However, some species may bring about extensive variations in hybrid forms no matter what part they have taken in fertilization and these variations will occur whether the species in question is used as a seed- or a pollen-parent. Of course it has been stated by hybridists, whose testimony cannot be doubted, that differences which show maternal and paternal influences in an unmistakable way, do occur in reciprocal crosses. But it has been the writer's experience that the variation in the progeny of reciprocal crosses, especially when distinct species are used, is not necessarily the result of the disposition of the parents as male and female, but the consequence of individual traits which are apt to appear in similar combinations no matter which of the parents bears the seed or furnishes the pollen.

The accompanying plate was carefully prepared from the first hybrid which bloomed, a plant with magenta-crimson flowers. For the sake of contrast the hybrid was placed in the centre of the plate with *L. cardinalis* on the left and *L. syphilitica* on the right.

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WOODSIA GLABELLA IN MAINE.—On the 1st of September, 1903, I collected a few specimens of *Woodsia glabella*, R. Br., in Township No. 1, East of the Kennebec, Fifth Range of Bingham's Purchase. The specimens were well fruited but not very abundant. This rare and interesting species appears to have been hitherto unrecorded for Maine.—J. FRANKLIN COLLINS, Providence, Rhode Island.