

Dr. Blake's and my article with the above title was sent to the printer; and, because of absence from Cambridge, I did not see the final proof. In consequence, two alterations which should have been made were omitted from the paper as it appeared in RHODORA for January, 1939. They are as follows.

Dr. Baldwin has expressed doubt as to the accuracy of the data of collection accompanying certain specimens. Accordingly, the sentence on page 35 reading, ". . . the list and the herbarium contain the following authentic records . . ." should read, ". . . the list and the herbarium contain the following apparently authentic records . . ."

The author-citation for *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, also on page 35, should be (Maxim.) Trautv., not Koehne as published.—C. A. WEATHERBY.

OXYPOLIS **Canbyi** (Coulter & Rose), comb. nov. *O. filiformis canbyi* Coulter & Rose in Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. vii. 193 (1900).

The local plant of Delaware, isolated from the more southern *Oxypolis filiformis* (Walt.) Britton by the breadth of eastern Maryland, Virginia and much of North Carolina, differs not only in the remarkably distinct fruit, pointed out by Coulter & Rose, but in the much less developed stipular sheaths of the more delicate leaves. In *O. filiformis* the quill-like lower leaves are 3–6 dm. long, with sheathing bases 0.5–1.8 dm. long; in *O. Canbyi* the lowest and very slender leaves are 1–2 dm. long, with dilated sheaths only 0.5–1 cm. long. This marked difference in the foliage, added to the wholly different fruit, clearly separates the local *O. Canbyi*.—M. L. FERNALD.

THE ASTERISK IN LINNAEUS' SPECIES PLANTARUM.—Since some citations in *Species Plantarum* are followed by an asterisk, it is important to know what this sign means. The use was presumably explained by Linnaeus himself in the preface of the second edition:

DESCRIPTIONES* tantum in obscuris adhibere necessum fuit, easque sine ambagibus, ut obtinerem compendium tironibus gratum.

The asterisk was omitted in the first edition. This paragraph was translated by Sprague and Exell¹ as follows: "Only in doubtful cases was it necessary to cite descriptions, and those, straightforward ones, so that I might keep the handbook suitable for beginners," and

¹ Journ. Bot. lxxv. 78 (1937).