

Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

Volume 1 | Part 4, 1893; (1887) -

Article 25

1892

Rhus typhina Linn

T. H. MacBride

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Recommended Citation

MacBride, T. H. (1892) "Rhus typhina Linn," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 1(Pt. 4), 65-65.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol1/iss4/25>

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to July of the present year (1893). That is to say, our North American Cycads were represented up to that time by one living species, about a score of fossil species from the Dakota group of the west, known to Lesquereux by more or less fragmentary leaf-casts, such species as Herr, of Lausanne, had described by leaf-fragments from Greenland, and Tyson's two trunks, silicified, but withal poorly preserved, kept in the museum at Baltimore.

In July of the present year the writer, being in Hot Springs, South Dakota, came across a handsome fossil offered for sale. The fossil proved to be a magnificently preserved, silicified Cycad. Some days later, on a bare hill, about thirty additional specimens were found in a more or less perfect state of preservation. Time has not as yet permitted a microscopic examination of the Dakota specimens, but all macroscopic characters are decidedly those given in Dr. Carruthers' definition of his genus. Our form is referred to a new species; for, while very much like *B. gibsonianus*, of Carruthers, it yet differs in the distribution of the leaves, as well as in the distribution of fibro-vascular elements of the leaf-petioles themselves.

That the Maryland specimens are also members of the genus seems, as already stated, most probable. It will be remembered that Mr. Fontaine, in his description calls attention to the flower buds bursting through the cortex, and to the elliptical section of the fossil. Mr. Fontaine claims two sorts of buds on the Maryland specimen but offers no microscopic sections in proof of the claim, besides his specimens it would seem are too far weathered to allow the exact determination of such points. These specimens cannot represent the genus *Mantellia* for in this genus the stems are globular. In fact, the Maryland and Dakota forms are very closely related—are probably species of the same genus and that genus is, in the writer's opinion, neither *Tysonia* nor *Mantellia*. Microscopic characters indicate two distinct species, but microscopic details as yet are lacking for definite and conclusive comparison. It is hoped later to offer the Academy the microscopic characters of the Dakota species.

For further details, descriptions and figures the reader is referred to the *American Geologist* for October, 1893, and to the *Bulletin of the Laboratories of Natural History*, volume II, No. 4, State University of Iowa.

RHUS TYPHINA LINN.

BY T. H. M'BRIDE.
(Abstract)

Rhus typhina is a northern plant, ranging from New Brunswick to Minnesota. It comes into Iowa in the northern counties only, being found in Allamakee and Clayton counties, but, so far as reported, nowhere else. The plant along the bluffs of the Mississippi river rises to a height of some thirty feet and has a stem at base six inches in diameter. It is a beautiful shrub or tree, differing, at sight, by its velvety branches and long-pointed leaflets, from the ordinary sumac (*Rhus glabra* L.) and well worthy a place in our dooryards to say nothing of a wider and better acquaintance. Where it prevails it seems to exclude the other species. I have never found *R. typhina* and *R. glabra* on the same hillside. That the plant should extend down the Mississippi river on the bluffs to McGregor and Lansing or thereabouts and not go farther south along the same stream is an interesting fact in connection with the problems of plant distribution.