

ON A SUSPENSOR IN HELMINTHOSTACHYS ZEYLANICA.—In an account of the prothallus and young plant of *Helminthostachys* published in vol. xvi of the Annals of Botany the description of the embryo was omitted owing to lack of material. The few arrested embryos which were found only showed that 'the young embryo soon becomes deeply seated'. Re-examination of these embryos suggested that their likeness to those of *Botrychium obliquum*, as figured by Bower¹ from preparations of H. Lyon, might be due to the development of a suspensor in *Helminthostachys*. The study of serial sections of a number of young plants still attached to the prothallus has fully confirmed this interpretation. A multicellular suspensor, in which two tiers can be distinguished, appears to be constantly present. It closely resembles that of *B. obliquum* as figured by Lyon,² but in *Helminthostachys* the plant is attached to the prothallus by a large foot.

A full account of this feature of the young plant will shortly be given. It seems advisable, however, to complete the account of the young plant already published, by recording the fact of the existence of a suspensor without delay. This is especially the case since the discovery of a suspensor in the embryos of *Botrychium obliquum* and *Danaea*³ has shown that this organ is not a peculiarity of the Lycopodiales among the Vascular Cryptogams, and directed attention to its significance.

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PRELIMINARY NOTE ON PERIDERM FORMATION IN FILICINEAN PETIOLES.—The discovery of a typical wound periderm in a Medullosean petiole, an account of which is to appear shortly, has led to the investigation of a number of Filicinean petioles, mostly of the Polypodiaceae, with a view to determining whether a similar response is exhibited by these.

The results have proved extremely interesting, a surprisingly large number showing a well-marked wound cambium, often several cells in depth.

As the experiments are still being continued with a view to obtaining as complete a series as possible, and will take some considerable time, it has been thought advisable to publish this preliminary note in order to briefly indicate the results.

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¹ *Land Flora*, p. 472, Fig. 266.

² *Bot. Gazette*, xl. 1905, p. 455.
Campbell, *Ann. of Bot.* xxiii, p. 691.