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**Medical flora, or, Manual of the medical botany of the United States of North
America ... /by C.S. Rafinesque.**

Philadelphia : Atkinson & Alexander, 1828-1830.
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leaves and snuff destroy all kinds of insects, moths, caterpillars, &c.

NYSSA, L. *Tupelo, Peperidge, Sourgum, Black-gum.* Six sp. of trees eq. Wood white, very soft when fresh, very light, tough and compact when dry, much used for bowls, implements, wheels, tubs, troughs, &c. Fruits bitter and acid. *N. coccinea*, Bartr. *Ogeechee tree, Lime tree* has a red acid fruit, size of a plumb, used like limes in the South.

OCYMUM BASILICUM, L. *Sweet basil.* Aromatic, stimulant, cardiac, used in cookery. Cult.

ODOSTEMON, Raf. 1817. *Mahonia*, N. 1818. *Mountain holly.* Purple acid berries. Eq. to *Berberis*.

OENOTHERA BIENNIS, L. *Sundrop, Primrose tree, Scabish.* Young roots edible boiled or pickled. Leaves vulnerary bruised and applied to wounds. Flowers fragrant and phosphorescent at night. Schoepf says the *O. molissima*, L. (leaves linear lanc. undul.) omitted by our authors, from N. Y. to Carolina in fields, is also vulnerary. The beautiful *O. grandiflora* is equally so, and perhaps all the sp.

OLEA EUROPEA, L. *Olive tree.* Cult. in S. Green fruit lixiviated and salted for food, ripe fruit dried. Olives are tonic and stomachic, produce the best sweet oil, so useful for food and light. Deemed a panacea in Africa and Greece for wounds, sores, cholics, tenesmus, cough, rheumatism, hydrophobia and poison! Excellent for burns, lately found a prophylactic for the plague!

ONOPIX SERICEA, Raf. Fl. lud. Eaten like *Cynara*.

ONOPORDON, L. *White Thistle.* A sp. in Ohio. Edible like *Cynara*.

OPHIOGLOSSUM VULGARE, L. *Snakeleaf.* Emollient, used for ulcers and sores.

OPHIORHIZA MITREOLA, L. *Pink Snakeroot.* Equiv. of *Spigelia* and *Aristolochia* for worms and snake bites.

OPUNTIA, Tt. Dec. *Prickly Pears.* Many sp. all eq. blended under *Cactus opuntia* by our authors! distinguished by myself. *O. humifusa*, descr. 1820, and since *O. mesacantha*, *O. cespitosa*, *O. maritima*, (Elliot sp.) *O. coccinea*, &c. Fruits edible, small and acid in

our sp. but in *O. coccinea* size of a pear, of a livid purple, juice scarlet, acid and cool like Pomegranate, very diuretic, tinges urine of a bloody color, yet very wholesome. Young leaves eaten by negroes like *Hibiscus*, split leaves good emollient topic for acute rheumatism, baked for chronic ulcers, gout and wounds. The juice and gum used for the gravel.

ORCHIS, L. *Salep, Twinroot.* All the sp. with tuberous twin roots become Salep by dessication, analeptic and pectoral. *O. morio* and *mascula* chiefly produce the Oriental Salep. All the fragrant sp. are stimulant and nervine, once deemed aphrodisiac. *O. fragrans*, Raf. 1817, of N. Y. is such. *O. orbiculata* and *macrophylla*, vulnerary leaves, called *Healall.* *O. fimbriata* roots vermifuge, powder used, kills worms by touching them, is similar to a fecula; smell like *Cypripedium*, taste like *Ulmus fulva*. Many sp. now removed to *Habenaria*.

ORIGANUM VULGARE, Linn. *Wild Marjoram.* Fragrant, pungent, acrid bitterish. Stomachic, corroborant, detergent, stimulant, menagogue, diaphoretic. Useful in tea for cough, asthma, chlorosis, oedema. Lotions and fumigations used in chronic rheumatism and palsy. Flowers and tops most grateful and efficient, they also dye purple. Dry leaves form a grateful tea. Fresh used for baths in uterine disorders. The distilled oil has all the properties, it is acrid and caustic, burns the skin, relieves toothache. *O. majorana*, or Sweet Marjoram, is eq. but milder, very grateful, used in cookery, cult.

ORNITHOGALUM L. *Bethlehemstar.* Root edible emollient.

OROBANCHE AMERICANA, Linn. *Broomrape, Earthclub, Clapwort.* Astringent, antiseptic and anti-syphilitic, deemed in the West a specific for gonorrhoea and syphilis. Useful for obstinate ulcers, aphthosae and herpetic sores, diarrhoea and dysentery.

ORONTIUM AQUATICUM, L. *Tawkin.* Useful plant of the Indians now neglected. Seeds eaten like pease, acrid when fresh, make good bread and soups by coction. Fresh roots acrid, but good and edible roasted or dried. Eq. of *Arum*?