

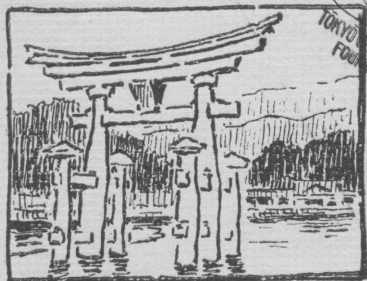
GUIDE-BOOK EXCURSION E-1,2,3,4

會協學地京東

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No.

MIYAJIMA



PAN-PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS, 1926

JAPAN



Fig. 1 Distant view of the island of Miyajima, seen from the northwest off Itsukushima-Machi; the zone of *Pinus Thunbergii* is seen on the sandy seashore, while the forest of *Pinus densiflora* is found clothing nearly all the mountains; but far above on and near the summit of the peaks there exist some nearly pure stands of *Tsuga Sieboldi* with a small amount of *Pinus densiflora* and *Chamaecyparis obtusa*. The steep peak, a little to the right of the center in this photograph, that seems to be the highest, is Mt. Komagahayashi, while Mt. Omisen, which is really the highest peak, is located a little to the left of Komagahayashi and in this photograph is but faintly visible, being partly hidden by the hanging clouds over its top; the other peak, a little in the rear and to the right of Komagahayashi, is Mt. Iwafunegatake.

MIYAJIMA

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GUIDE TO THE BOTANY OF THE ISLAND OF MIYAJIMA

BY BUNZŌ HAYATA

I. OUTLINE OF THE VEGETATION.

Of the numerous islands which stud the calm waters of the Inland Sea of Japan, Miyajima is the most famous, not only for its beautiful scenery, but also for its virgin forests strictly preserved for hundreds of years. To botanists, it is indeed a precious plot, for within its small compass is contained a remarkably complete model flora of the western districts of the Main Island of Japan.

It is an island of somewhat obliquely rectangular shape, nearly 10 km. long and 4 km. wide, its long side stretching from northeast to southwest, with no great prolongation of the coast line. When viewed from off Itsukushima-Machi, the island appears like a mountain range composed of several peaks, the highest of these, Mt. Omisen, rising 510 m. above sea-level, and the two next highest being Komagahayashi and Iwafunegatake, on the west of Mt. Omisen (Fig. 1). The geology of these mountains is rather simple, as they principally consist of biotite granite.

The vegetation is, roughly speaking, quite uniform on all sides of the mountains. When seen from the sea, all the peaks of the island appear clad nearly equally on all sides with dense forests consisting principally of red pines, leaving practically no room for grassy or herbaceous growth.

It seems, however, that there must have been many places on the island where grasses or herbs would, under favourable conditions, have found a way to establish their own associations to the exclusion of ligneous plants, such as we usually see in other places in Japan, as

in Nikkō or Hakoné. And it also appears that there were in the past, as I am informed by the people of the island, many circumstances favourable to the growth of such plant associations, as e. g., fires and cuttings, both of which, though strictly prohibited by law, occurred. Consequent upon such acts, forests are usually replaced by meadows, yet the mountains in Miyajima have always remained covered uniformly by the same dense forests. What has caused this uniformity of the vegetation is a rather difficult question, and the information which I obtained during my sojourn of a few days on the island does not enable me to suggest a satisfactory answer. The only thought that came to my mind, when looking down from the summit of the highest peak on the beautiful forests surrounding it, was that this uniformity of vegetation may be mainly ascribable to the simplicity of the geological conditions, characteristic of the island. If the geology of Miyajima had been much more complex than it is, leaving the ground smooth or rough, and sandy, loamy or rocky, then the island would have a forest here, bushes there, grassy places in one part and herbaceous plots in another. The ground of Miyajima is, on the contrary, very uniform; we find everywhere an admixture of soils and rocks of granitic origin, and consequently also everywhere the same pine forests.

The above statement is certainly a very rough attempt to account for the vegetation. But I have intentionally sketched it so for the present, for it is in the first place most important to give my readers a rough general concept of what constitutes the botany of Miyajima. Now let us proceed to describe it more in detail. Again observing the island from off Itsukushima a little nearer than before, we see on the sandy seashore here and there groups of pines which are slightly different from those a little above on the hills. The pines on the seashore have a gray bark and very dark green leaves, while those on the hills have a reddish bark and leaves of a lighter green. The former species is called the black pine, *Pinus Thunbergii*, and the latter the red pine, *Pinus densiflora*. Thus we can distinguish two different groups of pines, the first or lower zone, if I may use the term, of *Pinus Thunbergii* and the second, from a little above on the hills up to nearly the summit of the peaks, the zone of *Pinus densiflora*. The red pines of the latter zone, showing their reddish trunks through gaps in a mass of green, standing erect on steep slopes or overhanging a precipice, are the predominating trees which give to the vegetation

and the landscape of this island its peculiar feature.

Now look up through your glass to the summit regions of the peaks, and you will find them all clad with still denser forests of a conifer that has more crowded branches and a thicker foliage. This conifer is a kind of hemlock spruce, *Tsuga Sieboldi*. Here we have the third group overtopping the peaks, the zone of *Tsuga Sieboldi*.

Thus, the vegetation of Miyajima may be divided into three zones, so far as the conifers are concerned; and they are by far the predominating trees. I may here add one more zone between the first and the second, the zone of a fir, *Abies firma*. This, however, might better be called an association, for though it is clearly observable in one part of the island, in another it is entirely absent. For the sake of convenience, I shall arrange these zones according to their altitudes in the following way :

1) Zone of *Pinus Thunbergii*, found on the seashore, especially near the sandy beaches.

2) Association of *Abies firma*, found on a gentle slope not higher than 50 m. above the level of the sea at the foot of the mountains, where the ground consists mostly of detritus and soils of granitic origin.

3) Zone of *Pinus densiflora*, generally ranging from altitudes of 50 m. to those of 350 m., but the tree is scattered beyond the zone all over the island, except on the sandy beaches.

4) Zone of *Tsuga Sieboldi*, found mostly on the summit regions of the mountains, covering areas between the altitudes of 350 m. and 510 m.

It must be granted, however, that these zones are not strictly defined. But we never see *Pinus Thunbergii* on the summit, and even more decidedly, we do not see *Tsuga Sieboldi* on the seashore.

Thus far, I have sketched the physiognomy of the vegetation as viewed from a distance. Let us now land on the island and examine it more closely. Approaching it one finds floating on the calm waters the long ribbon-like leaves of *Zostera marina*, and a variety of sea-algae which here, however, are not very numerous. On entering the forest, the vegetation is found to be extremely variegated. It is altogether a mixture of many kinds of trees and shrubs, deciduous as well as evergreen, broad- and needle-leaved, and herbs and grasses. The flora is wonderfully rich. A score of species can be collected within a few steps. In order to gain a general idea of what consti-

tutes the botany of Miyajima, it is advisable to observe it in climbing the highest peak, Mt. Omisen, to which paths lead from all sides. There are three principal routes to the summit of the peak: one is the central route; another, located on the western side of the central one, is the Ōmoto-route; and the other, on the northern side of the central path, is the Momijidani-route. Of these, the one recommended for botanists is the Ōmoto-route which climbs along the rippling waters of the Ōmoto-valley and passes through the most natural corner of the island. Here allow me to say a few words about the plants which I met with when I took this route from the shore up to the peak, in the summer of last year.

Now the path starting from the sandy seashore with its black pines enters the dark fir forest. Near the Miyajima hotel on the left, as one enters the path, magnificent examples of *Pinus Thunbergii* may be seen. These noble black pines with their huge crooked trunks, dark gray bark and broad overhanging branches, cast reflexions of their dark green foliage on the calm waters of the inlet and make the surrounding scenery very lovely (Fig. 2).

A little apart from the seashore on a gentle declivity at the foot of the mountains at altitudes not greater than 50 m., where the ground is not very rocky, there are some associations mainly consisting of firs, usually with some red pines and a few *Torreya nucifera* (Fig. 3). Within a few steps, on a gentle slope back of the hotel, there is a fine and rather rare example of a nearly pure stand of *Abies firma*. With its large straight trunk covered with dark gray bark and the somber foliage of its spreading branches, this tree is very imposing. Nearby, there are found several kinds of maples, mostly *Acer palmatum*, which makes a great contribution to the autumnal coloration. The species is, however, probably not indigenous. A little way up, say 50 m. above the level of the sea, these firs give way to the red pines.

As we go onward through the pine forest, with the Ōmoto-valley on our left, we see along the glen many deciduous trees which in autumn present very variegated tints. The yellow glow of *Acer rufinerve* and the flaming scarlet of *Rhus semialata*, *Photinia villosa*, *Sorbus gracilis*, *Pieris ovalifolia* and others must be very attractive in the autumn in contrast to the dark green foliage of the evergreen trees, such as *Quercus sessilifolia*, *Cinnamomum pedunculatum*, *Maesa japonica*, *Illicium anisatum*, *Myrica rubra*, *Eurya japonica* and *ochnacea*, *Tetradenia*

foliosa and *glauca*, *Ligustrum japonicum* and *Xylosma racemosa*. Along the glen, we see very luxuriant growths of climbers, such as *Stephania japonica* (Fig. 4), *Vitis saccharifera*, *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*, *Smilax China*, *Trachelospermum divaricatum*, *Ficus foveolata*, *Akebia lobata* and *quinata*, *Schizandra nigra*, *Berchemia racemosa* and *Cocculus trilobus*. All these cover the valley, which is in some parts quite hidden and is only recognizable by the rushing noise of the running water under the climbers. On more or less exposed ground there exists a dense growth of *Rubus Sieboldii*.

From the altitude of nearly 90 m. upwards, *Pinus densiflora* becomes more and more prominent. One of the most peculiar features in the vegetation of Miyajima is the total absence of dwarf bamboos which are everywhere found in the central or northern districts of Japan. Among the ferns, *Dryopteris erythrosora*, *D. lacera*, *Polystichum aristatum* and *P. varium* are common on the shady ground in the pine forest. *Dryopteris punctata*, remarkable for its *Polypodium*-like sorus and long creeping rhizome, is also abundant on dry rocky soils. On exposed places under the thin forest there are usually found pure associations of *Gleichenia linearis* (Fig. 5) or of *G. glauca*. It is curious to observe that these two species are never found mixed together, but always each in a pure stand of its own. On the shady rocks, we find many ombrophilous ferns, such as *Hymenophyllum bartatum* and *H. polyanthos* and species of *Selaginella*. Some of the latter present a peculiar deep green or nearly indigo-blue colour in this shady habitat. It seems that they lose their beautiful tone soon after they have been picked, as I found the specimens I had gathered of a quite common and uninteresting pale green colour when I took them out of my vasculum the next morning. Among evergreen shrubs, *Pieris japonica* and *Symplocos neriifolia* are species to be found abundantly at this altitude (Fig. 6). *Ilex pedunculosa* is another species which forms nearly pure stands especially on ground where the pines are not too crowded (Fig. 7.).

When we reach the level of 250 m. above the sea, we find that *Acer rufinerve* becomes more and more numerous, and is perhaps the dominant deciduous broad-leaved tree, while on the other hand *Camellia japonica* is the most abundant species of broad-leaved evergreen. Over these shrubs stand the red pines, spreading their usual umbrellas, and far above on the distant cliffs tower hundreds of the same pines, their straight red trunks and dark green foliage standing out prominently against the clear blue sky (Fig. 8.).

Further, at altitudes of 300 m. we notice the first appearance of the hemlock-spruce. From altitudes of 350 m. upwards, the red pine gradually gives way to *Tsuga Sieboldi* which constitutes the uppermost consociation crowning the tops of all the highest peaks (Fig. 9). At this elevation or thereabout *Juniperus rigida* appears. This tree, not very large or usually in a rather poor state, is found only here and there on these mountains. At this altitude appears *Fraxinus longicuspis* with 3- or 5-foliolate leaves and its peculiar samaras hanging from the apex of the branches. *Rhamnus crenata* with its red fruits is worthy of notice. *Clethra barbinervis* and *Photinia villosa* are other kinds commonly found at these altitudes. Of evergreen oaks, *Quercus stenophylla* is the most common. Presently we pass a large cliff on which a kind of lily, *Lilium Maximowiczii*, may be found; the flowers have now all passed away, but occasionally some of the seed pods may be found. Beautiful examples of *Vittaria lineata* with its dark green linear leaves hanging from the same cliff are very attractive. *Cyclophorus Lingua* is another species to be found here. At an altitude of 380 m. in the forest of *Tsuga*, I found a single example of a large-leaved holly, *Ilex latifolia*, a species with perhaps the largest leaves of all the hollies. *Symplocos myrtaea* is another tree which attracted my attention in this forest (Fig. 10).

Now we are nearly at the top (510 m.). The view of the summit regions of the mountain-range obtained from the top of Mt. Omisen is magnificent, and I could hardly express my joy when I saw to the west the huge pyramid of Mt. Iwafunegatake with its dense forests of *Tsuga Sieboldi* with some *Chamacyparis obtusa* and *Pinus densiflora*, each vignetting its peculiar shape against the clear blue sky. If the mountains were a little higher, say 600 m. above the level of the sea, there would be a pure stand of *Tsuga*. But the range is only 510 m. high, and consequently possesses a mixed formation of *Tsuga*, *Pinus* and *Chamacyparis*, the first species being of course predominant. On the top of Mt. Omisen there stands a solitary example of this *Tsuga*. It is good to see on this sacred plot so fine a specimen of the noble conifer with the wild deer wandering about under its spreading branches (Fig. 11).

II. GENERAL ASPECTS OF THE FLORA.

As I have already remarked, the flora of Miyajima is wonderfully rich and thoroughly representative of the flora of the western

districts of the Main Island of Japan. Of vascular plants, 572 species belonging to 85 families are so far recorded. The largest family is the Gramineae possessing 48 species. Next come the Compositae and the Polypodiaceae, each having a few more than 40 species; then follow the Cyperaceae and the Labiatae, each with 20 species. The Orchidaceae, the Polygonaceae, the Caprifoliaceae and the Lauraceae follow far in the rear, each with not more than 15 species. In the following list, the families found on the island are given with figures denoting the number of species belonging to each. The names of those species which may be regarded as giving to the flora of the western districts of the Main Island of Japan its peculiar features, occur under their respective families in the list.

III. LIST OF FAMILIES FOUND ON THE ISLAND.

Filices : including the Hymenophyllaceae, the Polypodiaceae and the Gleichniaceae : 45 species.

Trichomanes orientalis C. CH.

Cyclophorus Lingua (TH.) DESV.

Pteris semipinnata LINN. var. *dispar* (KZE.)

Hypolepis punctata (TH.) METT.

Plagiogyria adnata BEDD.

Polystichum miyajimense KODAMA.

Lycopodiaceae : 2 species.

Selaginellaceae : 4 species.

Taxaceae : 2 species.

Pinaceae : 7 species.

Gramineae : 48 species.

Rottboellia latifolia STEUD.

Andropogon micranthus KUNTH.

Panicum indicum LINN.

Polyopogon Higegaweri STEUD.

Cyperaceae : 28 species.

Araceae : 5 species.

Eriocaulaceae : 2 species.

Commelinaceae : 2 species.

Juncaceae : 5 species.

Liliaceae : 13 species.

Amarylloidaceae : 1 species.

Dioscoreaceae : 3 species.

Iridaceae : 1 species.

Orchidaceae : 15 species.

Gymnadenia rupestris MIQ.

Bulbophyllum inconspicuum MAXIM.

„ *Drymoglossum* MAXIM.

Sarcochilus japonicus MIQ.

Saccolabium Matsuran MAKINO.

Angraecum falcatum LINDL.

Dendrobium moniliforme SW.

Saururaceae : 1 species.

Chloranthaceae : 1 species.

Salicaceae : 3 species.

Myricaceae : 1 species.

Myrica rubra SIEB. et ZUCC.

Betulaceae : 3 species.

Fagaceae : 8 species.

Quercus serrata THUNB.

„ *phyllireoides* (FRANCH.)

„ *stenophylla* MAKINO.

Ulmaceae : 4 species.

Moraceae : 3 species.

Urticaceae : 7 species.

Loranthaceae : 2 species.

Aristolochiaceae : 3 species.

Polygonaceae : 13 species.

Chenopodiaceae : 3 species.

Amarantaceae : 2 species.

Portulacaceae : 1 species.

Caryophyllaceae : 7 species.

Trochodendraceae : 1 species.

Trochodendron aralioides SIEB. et ZUCC.

Ranunculaceae : 8 species.

Lardizabalaceae : 3 species.

Menispermaceae : 2 species.

Stephania japonica MIERS.

Magnoliaceae : 3 species.

Lauraceae : 10 species.

Tetradenia foliosa NEES.

Lindera Thunbergii MAKINO.

Cinnamomum Camphora NEES. et EBERM.

Lindera glauca BLUME.

Papaveraceae : 3 species.

Cruciferae : 4 species.

Droseraceae : 1 species.

Crassulaceae : 1 species.

Saxifragaceae : 6 species.

Pittosporaceae : 1 species.

Hamamelidaceae : 1 species.

Corylopsis spicata SIEB. et ZUCC.

Rosaceae : 21 species.

Rubus Sieboldii BLUME.

Leguminosae : 21 species.

Milletia japonica A. GRAY.

Geraniaceae : 1 species.

Oxalidaceae : 2 species.

Rutaceae : 4 species.

Meliaceae : 1 species.

Polygalaceae : 1 species.

Euphorbiaceae : 5 species.

Glochidion obovatum SIEB. et ZUCC.

Anacardiaceae : 4 species.

Aquifoliaceae : 8 species.

Ilex latifolia THUNB.

„ *micrococca* MIXIM.

„ *Oldhami* MIQ.

„ *Sugeroki* MAXIM. f. *longepedunculata* MAXIM.

Celastraceae : 3 species.

Staphylleaceae : 1 species.

Aceraceae : 3 species.

Balsaminaceae : 1 species.

Rhamnaceae : 3 species.

Rhamnella franguloides WEBER.

Rhamnus crenata SIEB. et ZUCC.

Vitaceae : 6 species.

Vitis saccharifera MAKINO.

Tiliaceae : 1 species.

Actinidiaceae : 1 species.

Theaceae : 4 species.

Eurya ochracea Szys.

Guttiferae : 2 species.

Violaceae : 8 species.

Flacourtiaceae : 1 species.

Xylosma racemosa MIQ.

Thymelaeaceae : 1 species.

Wikstroemia sikokiana FR. et SAV.

Elaeagnaceae : 4 species.

Lythraceae : 1 species.

Onagraceae : 2 species.

Halorrhagidaceae : 1 species.

Araliaceae : 6 species.

Umbelliferae : 6 species.

Cornaceae : 3 species.

Clethraceae : 1 species.

Pirolaceae : 2 species.

Ericaceae : 8 species.

Vaccinium japonicum MIQ.

Rhododendron tosaense MAKINO.

„ *rhombicum* MIQ.

Myrsinaceae : 4 species.

Myrsine capitellata WALL.

Primulaceae : 3 species.

Ebenaceae : 1 species.

Symplocaceae : 4 species.

Symptocos neriifolia SIEB. et ZUCC.

„ *caudata* WALL.

„ *myrtacea* SIEB. et ZUCC.

Styracaceae : 1 species.

Oleaceae : 4 species.

Gentianaceae : 5 species.

Apocynaceae : 2 species.

Anodendron laeve MAXIM.

Asclepiadaceae : 2 species.

Convolvulaceae : 3 species.

Borraginaceae : 6 species.

Verbenaceae : 4 species.

Labiatae : 20 species.

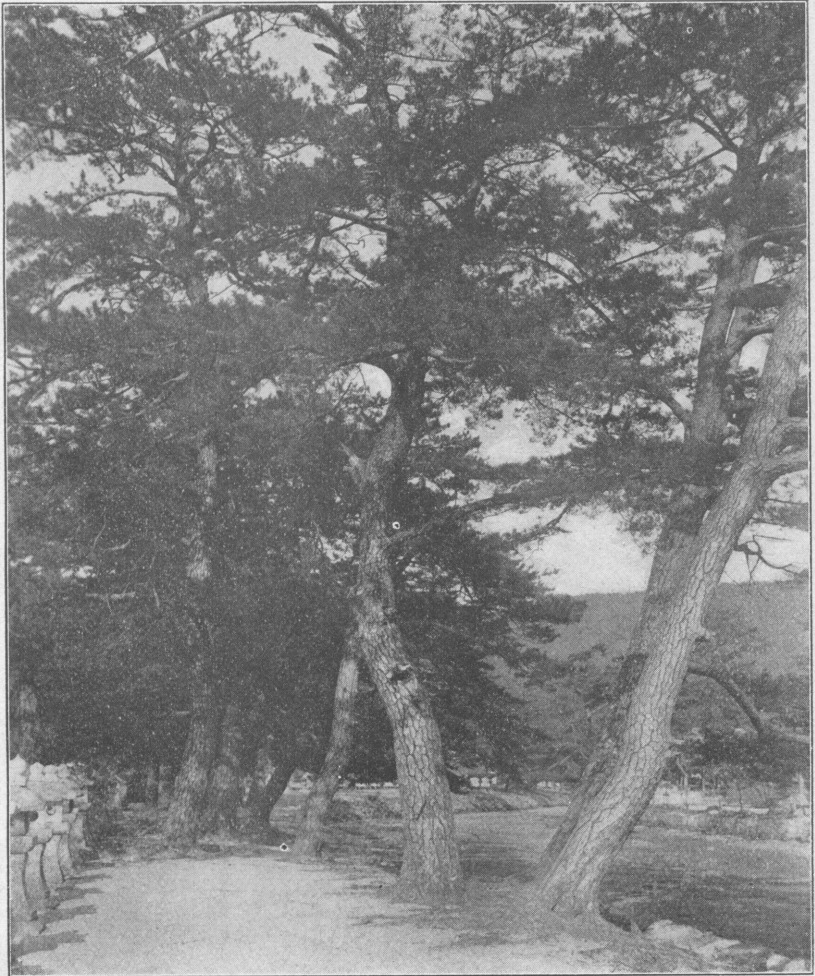


Fig. 2 *Pinus Thunbergii* on the sandy shore near the Miyajima hotel.
Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1925.



Fig. 3 Coniferous forest mainly consisting of *Abies firma*, with some *Pinus densiflora* and examples of *Torreya nucifera*, at an altitude of 30 m., on the left side of the Ōmoto path which leads to the summit of Mt. Omisen. Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1925.

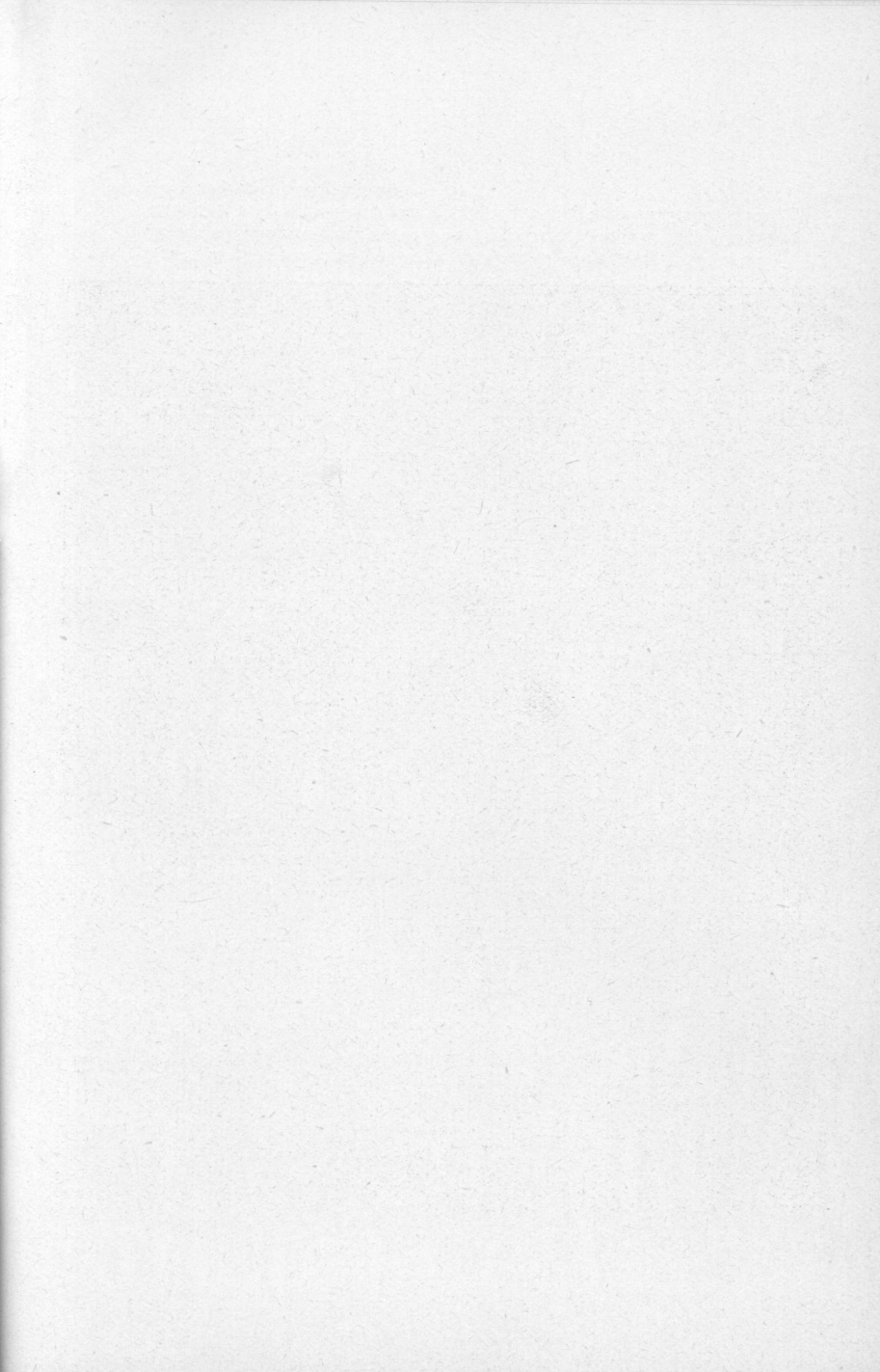




Fig. 4 *Stephania japonica*, a common climber in Miyajima. Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1925.

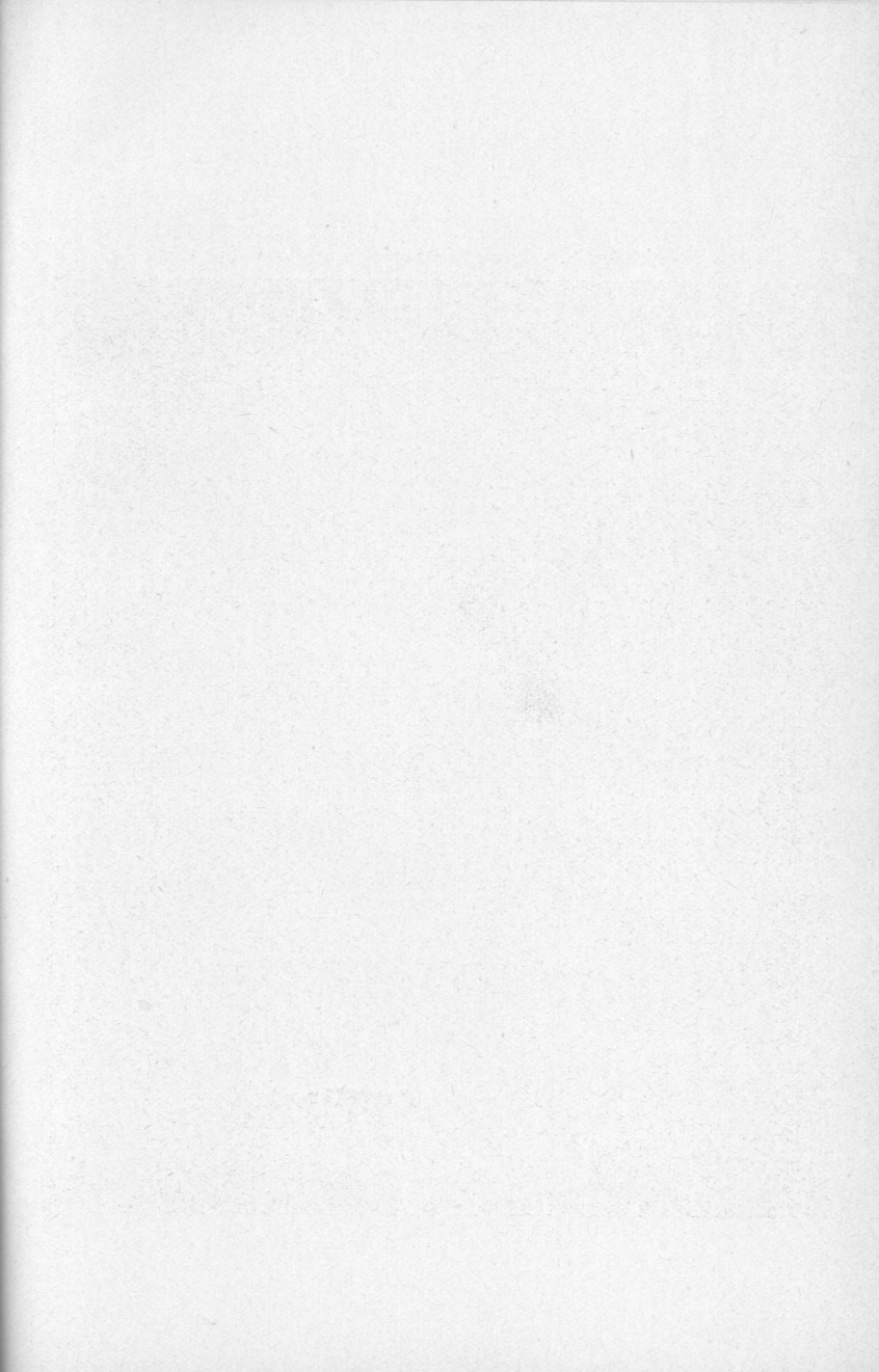




Fig. 5 *Gleichenia linearis* in a sunny exposure. Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1915.

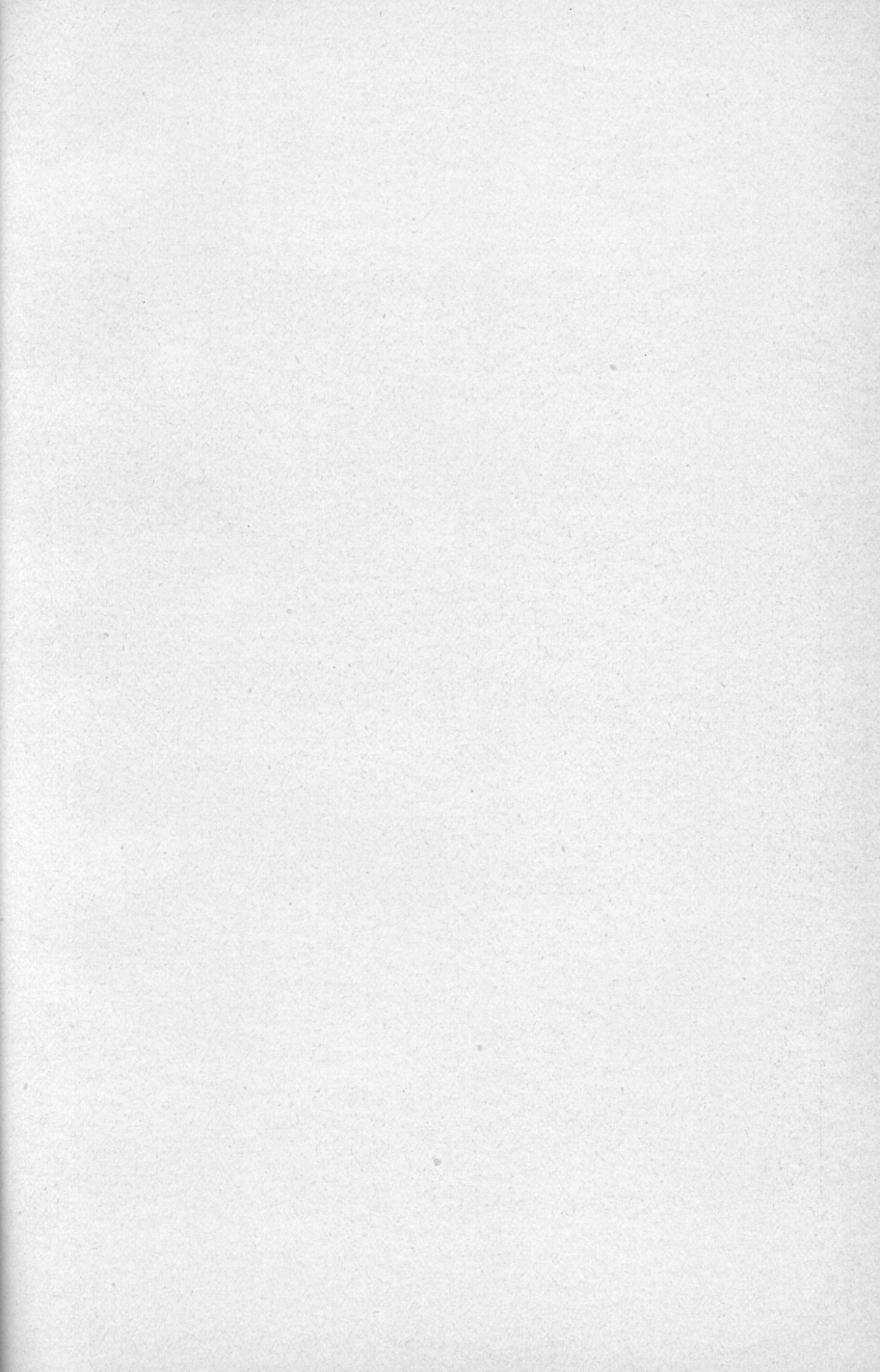




Fig. 6 *Symlocos neriifolia* on the left and *Pieris japonica* at the center, over which branches of *Torreya nucifera* are seen on the right. Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1925.

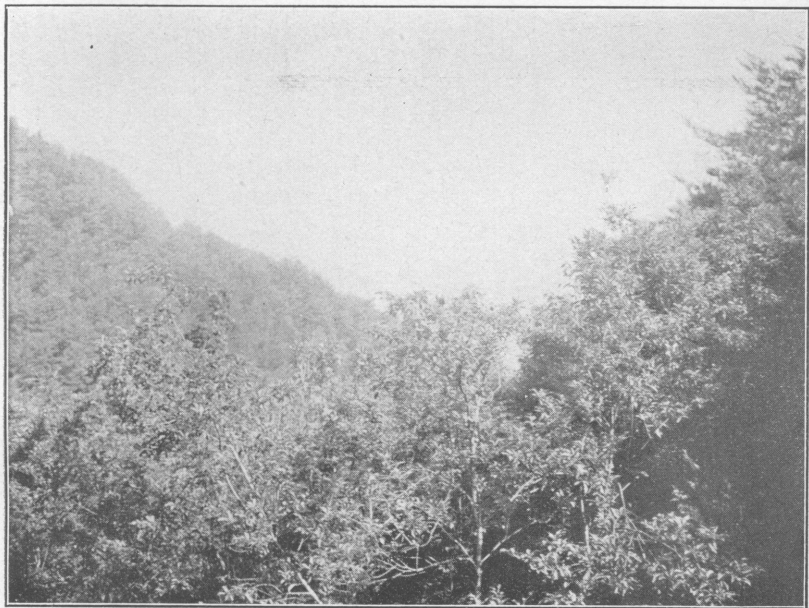


Fig. 7 A clump mainly consisting of *Ilex pedunculosa* in the foreground, and a forest of *Pinus densiflora* in the background. Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1925.

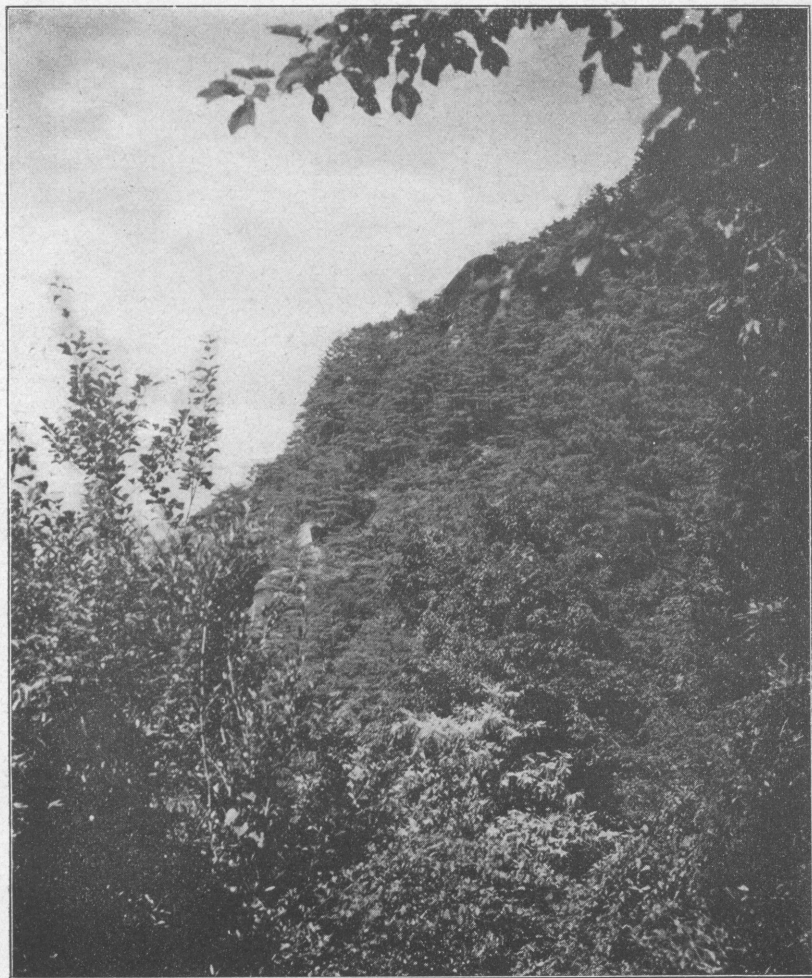


Fig. 8 In the foreground on the right, an overhanging branch of *Acer rufinerve*; on the left, erect branches of the same maple; and a little below the middle, a mass of white flowers of *Clethra barbinervis* are seen; while far above on the distant cliffs, there tower hundreds of red pines showing their reddish straight trunks and dark green foliage which stand out prominently against the blue sky. Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1925.

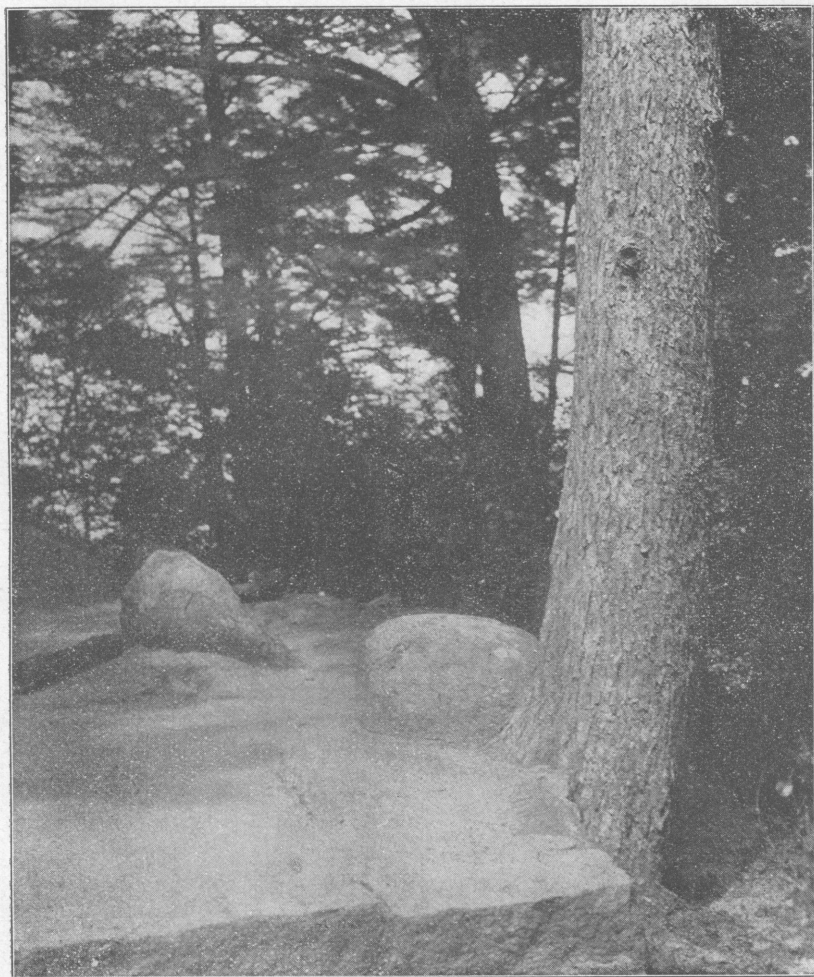


Fig. 9 Forest of *Tsuga Sieboldi*, at an altitude of nearly 450 m.; on the right side, there is seen a trunk of the hemlock-spruce with its peculiar bark. Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1925.

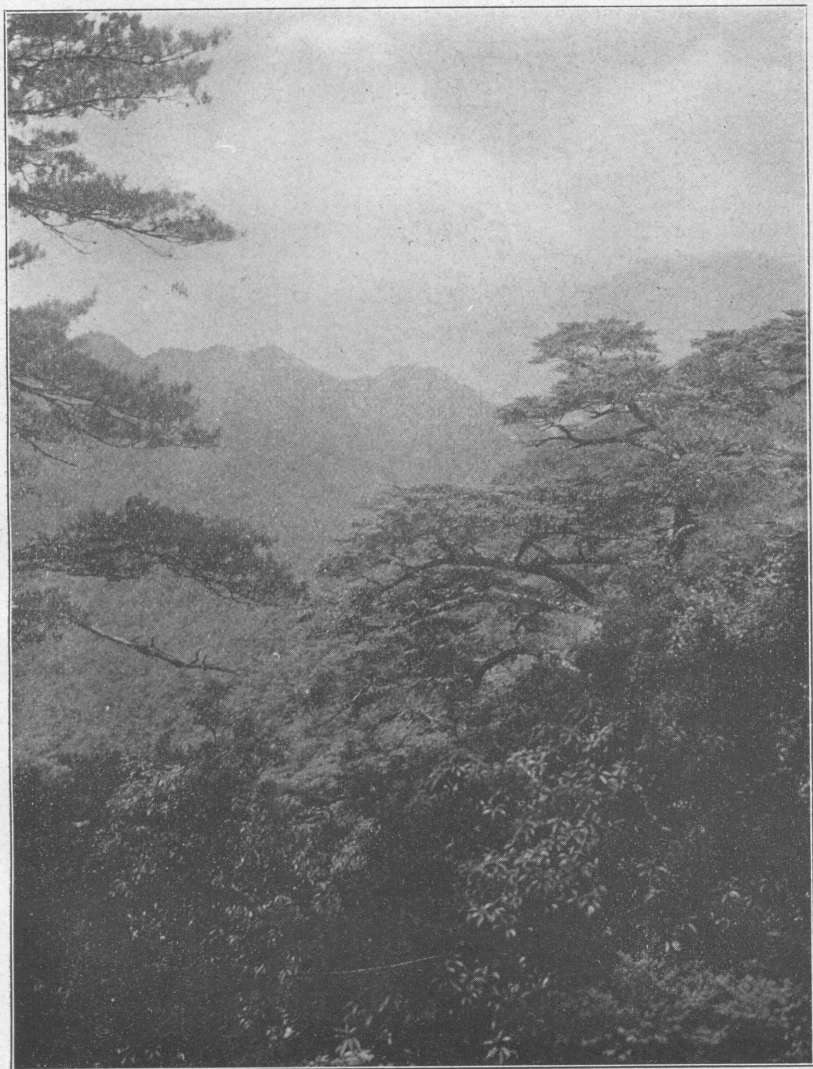


Fig. 10 In the foreground, there is seen an undergrowth of *Symplocos myrtilacea*, and over it a few specimens of *Tsuga Sieboldi*, the prevailing species of forest trees at the altitudes of 400 m.—500 m., and on the left, *Pinus densiflora*, while far below in the background an immense forest of red pines is observable. Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1925.

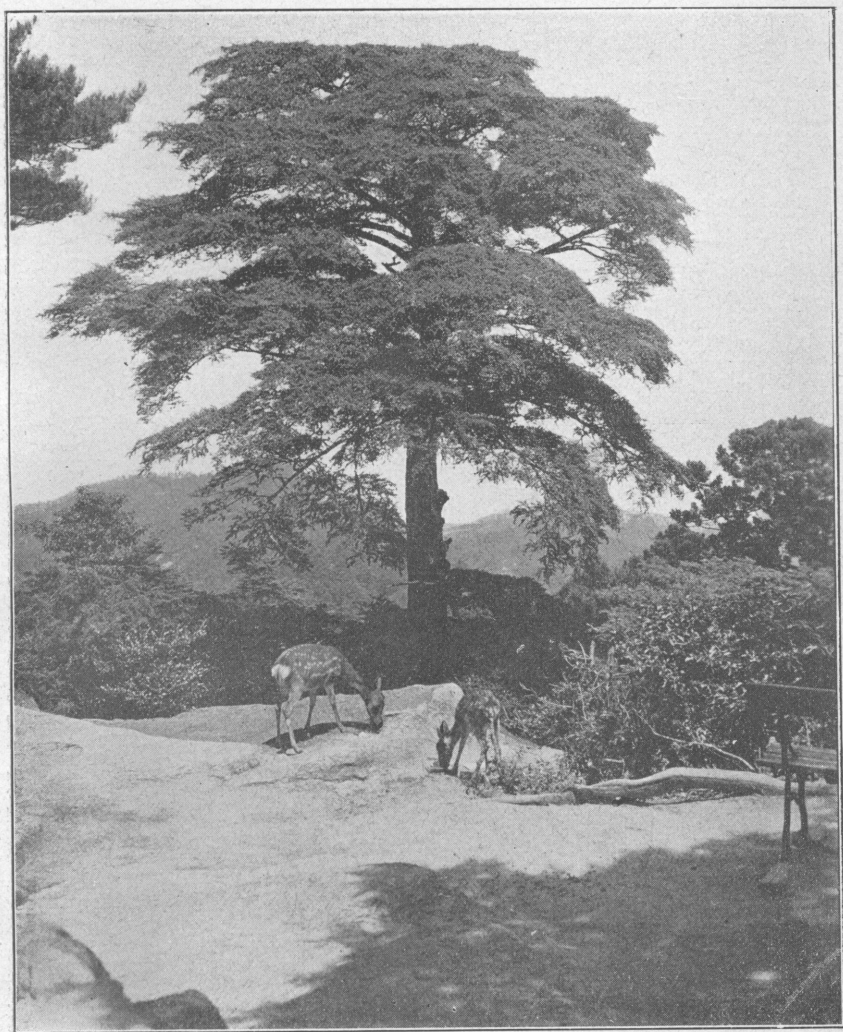


Fig. 11 *Tsuga Sieboldi* on the summit of Mt. Omisen. The straight trunk and the spreading branches are very characteristic. Phot. B. HAYATA, July 28, 1925.

Solanaceae : 3 species.

Scrophulariaceae : 9 species.

Veronica murorum MAXIM.

Orobanchaceae : 1 species.

Lentibulariaceae : 3 species.

Acanthaceae : 1 species.

Phrymaceae : 1 species.

Plantaginaceae : 1 species.

Rubiaceae : 8 species.

Pseudopyxis longituba FR. et SAV.

Caprifoliaceae : 11 species.

Linnæa serrata GRAEBN.

Cucurbitaceae : 3 species.

Gymnostemma pedatum BLUME.

Campanulaceae : 4 species.

Wahlenbergia gracilis A. DC.

Compositae : 20 species.

Lagenophora Billardieri CASS.

Rhynchospermum verticillatum REINV.

THE ITSUKUSHIMA SHRINE

BY CHŪTA ITŌ

The Itsukushima Shrine is situated in the northwestern part of Itsukushima Island. The shrine is dedicated to the goddess Ichikishimahime-no-mikoto and two other goddesses, and is said to have been established in the first year of the Empress Suiko, i.e., A.D. 593.

When Taira-no-Kiyomori, at one time *de facto* ruler of Japan, was in A.D. 1146 appointed by the Emperor Lord of Aki Province, in which Itsukushima is situated, the scale of the structures was extended and their beauty increased by the addition of several buildings. According to records kept at the shrine, the shrine buildings were destroyed by fire in A.D. 1270, but were rebuilt soon afterwards. In A.D. 1572 Mōri Motonari, who was a feudal lord in the region at the time, repaired and reconstructed the shrine. Further repairs have been made at different times from that epoch up to the present,

but the architectural plan of the structures seems to have remained unchanged from the time of the 12th century, when Taira-no-Kiyomori was alive.

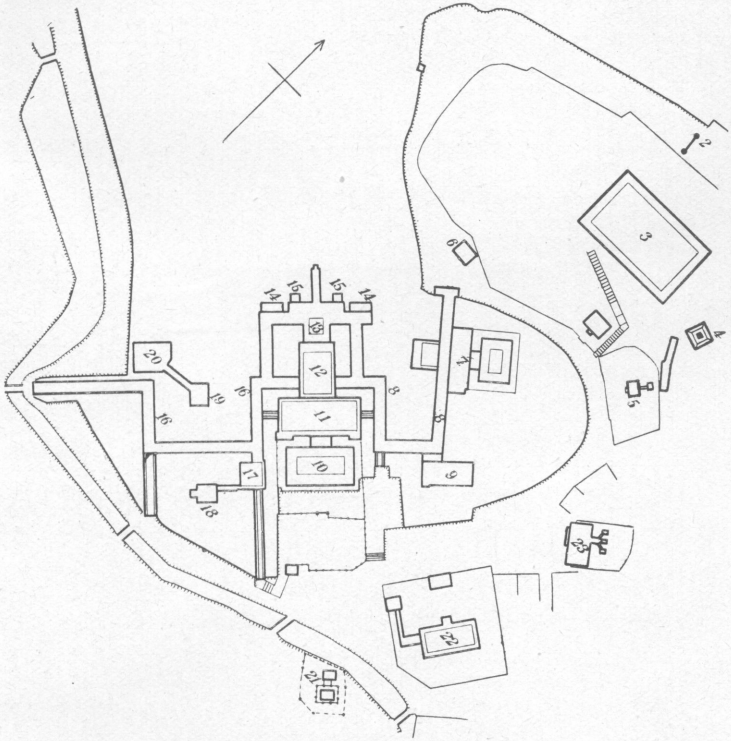
The structures of the Itsukushima Shrine represent one of the rarest types of architecture known to the World. The shrine is built upon the sea, and is connected with the land by winding corridors or bridges, between which are many halls. The architectural design, indeed, seems a heaven-imagined fantasy. This impression is enhanced by the sight of the blue water of the sea in front, the green mountains behind, and the colorful vermilion with which the structures themselves are painted, the ensemble forming a striking combination of hues. It is possible that the suggestion for the fantastic architecture was derived from Chinese models, such as, for example, the *Koshintei* or "The Pavilion on the Lake" and the *Kyūkyokuyō* or "The Nine-turned Bridge."

The buildings at Itsukushima are not all of the same age. Some are old and others are new, but every piece of architecture there is either beautiful or fantastic in the extreme and sometimes both, each one contributing its share toward making the whole a strangely congruous group of excellent and well-balanced structures. As many as twenty-five of the buildings have been selected by the Government for permanent protection against weather damage.

The oldest structures in the group are a number of buildings comprising the Marōdo Shrine, built in the architectural style of the Kamakura period, A.D. 1190-1337. Another group, which includes the main hall, presents an atmosphere of ancient grace and elegance. The style of the buildings indicates that they were reconstructed in the 16th century; that is, at the time of Mōri Motonari, in A.D. 1572.

The large *torii*, or shrine gate, standing in the sea at a distance, is the largest wooden *torii* in Japan, measuring 64 feet in height. The present *torii* was constructed in the eighth year of Meiji, or 1875. Although it is comparatively new, the height and other dimensions have always remained the same from ancient times.

In one of the shrine buildings, there is the *Senjōkaku*, or "The Hall of a Thousand Mats." This huge hall was constructed in A.D. 1582 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the celebrated Japanese war-lord, who at one time ruled the country. Close by the hall, there is a five-storied pagoda or, more strictly speaking, *stūpa*. The date of building is inscribed on the top-column: the second year of Tenmon, or A.D. 1533.



PLANE of ITSUKUSHIMA SHRINE.

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Big "Torii" or (Shrine Gate). | 13. Stage of "Bugaku" Dance. |
| 2. Stone "Torii". | 14. Dancers' Rooms. |
| 3. Thousand-mat Hall. | 15. Shrines attached to Entrance. |
| 4. Five-storied Pagoda. | 16. Western Corridor. |
| 5. Ebisu Shrine. | 17. Daikoku Shrine. |
| 6. Sacred Stable. | 18. Tenjin Shrine. |
| 7. Attached Shrine. | 19. Stage of "Nō" Dance. |
| 8. Eastern Corridor. | 20. Dancers' Room. |
| 9. Morning-Rite Hall. | 21. Treasure House. |
| 10. Main Hall (Inner Shrine). | 22. Museum of Treasure. |
| 11. Central Hall (Outer Shrine). | 23. Tri-Saint Shrine. |
| 12. Hall of Purifying-Rite. | |



The Itsukushima Shrine. (See Plan—13, 12, 11).



The Itsukushima Shrine. (See Plan—8, 12, 11, 10).

The stage for the performance of *Nō* dances belonging to the shrine dates from the Momoyama period, or the latter part of the 16th century, and is considered the oldest of its kind in Japan. The *Nō* are ancient classic dances performed by hereditary schools of actors.

Many rare historical documents are kept in the archives of the shrine, among which thirty-three rolls of Buddhist scriptures or *sūtra* dedicated to the shrine by the Taira family, stand out conspicuously. These illustrated rolls are representative of the calligraphy and painting of the Taira period, and for richness of design and artistic skill, are quite distinct and original and admit of no comparison. Four of the thirty-three rolls are from the brush of Taira-no-Kiyomori himself, and the rest were written by other Taira nobles. According to the inscription at the end of the rolls, they were dedicated to the shrine in A.D. 1244.

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