

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1963)
Heft: 1440

Artikel: Flora of Engadine
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695393>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 07.02.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

FLORA OF THE ENGADINE

The vegetation of the Engadine owes its distinctive character to the remarkable climatic and geographical conditions, and is influenced in particular by the elevation of the district above sea-level. While the limit of regulation coincides for the most part with the line of perpetual snow, though frequently passing beyond it, the warm winds from the south, traversing the valley, exercise a favourable influence upon the vegetation.

Although on the one hand this high Alpine flora stands in marked contrast to that of the plains, on the other hand it shows considerable divergence from that of the Central and Western Alps, and while the vegetation is practically confined to the wild growths of the forests, the meadows, and the mountain pastures, it presents to the botanist, within these limits, an extraordinary variety of species.

Although our Alpine valley is destitute of the adornment of orchard trees and deciduous trees in general, their absence is compensated for by the dark forests of fir and pine, among which many noble trees may be found, as well as by the light-green larches, the foremost place among the forest trees of the Engadine is claimed, however, by the beautiful cembra pine, the cedar of the Alps. This, the finest of all our coniferous trees, with its strangely twisted, arched branches and its green, aromatic tufts of needles, has its true habitat here on the shores of the Alpine lakes and on the débris heaps of the transverse ridges, luxuriantly carpeted with mosses and gaily coloured lichens.

The saying that "Engadine is the botanist's Paradise" is perfectly true. While the women are proud of the geraniums and pinks to which they devote such unremitting care, with such pleasing results, the lover of Alpine flowers will find in the meadows and on the high pastures and mountain slopes many a beautiful and rare specimen. Distinctively Alpine species both of cryptogamic and phanerogamic plants are very numerous here, and we believe that no other district of equal area would yield a greater variety. St. Moritz is perhaps the best headquarters for the botanist in the Alps.

It is not within the scope of this article to serve as a guide to the botanist, but we have thought it well to give a few examples of some of the most striking representations of the Upper Engadine flora.

To those desirous of pursuing the subject further we can recommend the beautiful "Alpenflora", with coloured plates of 170 widely diffused species of Alpine plants, by Schröter, with brief botanical descriptions in German, French and English.

The orders most abundantly represented are the Ranunculaceae or Butter-cup tribe, the Cruciferae or Cruciferous tribe, the Caryophyllaceae or Chickweed tribe, the Papilionaceae or Pea tribe, the Compositae or Compound flowers, the Primulaceae or Primrose variety, the Gentianeae or Gentian tribe, the Scrophularineae or Figwort tribe, the Cyperaceae or Sedge tribe, and the Gramineae or Grasses.

Special mention must be made of the queens of the Alpine flora, the Alpenrose, and the Edelweiss, *Leontopodium Alpinum* Cass. Both the Fringed Alpenrose (*Rhododendron hirsutum*) and the Rust-red Alpenrose (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*) flourish here, covering spacious slopes and adorning steep rocky acclivities all over the Engadine.

(From "St. Moritz Courier".)

SHOES FOR MEN by Bally of Switzerland

at 116 New Bond Street, W.1
22 Sloane Street, S.W.1
49 Golders Green Road, N.W.11



'GUARD' GARDEN GLOVES

Available only to readers of the "Swiss Observer". Finest quality Chrome Hide Leather Gloves. Tough, comfortable, hard wearing. Ideal for gardening. Avoid cuts and scratches. Send 7/6 (includes carriage) State Men's or Women's.

AIRGUARD · LIMITED

60 LILLIE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.6
Telephone: FULham 3344 (10 lines)

MANUFACTURERS OF 'GUARD' J.601 OVERALLS

Bolex K1 automatic. £195·17·8
(the finest 8mm cine camera ever made)

EXAMINE · COMPARE · DISCUSS · YOU'LL BUY

BOLEX

