

latter have long ago descended from their pristine eminence to a very humble place in nature, the former still, in the southern hemisphere at least, retain their arboreal dimensions and ancient dominance.

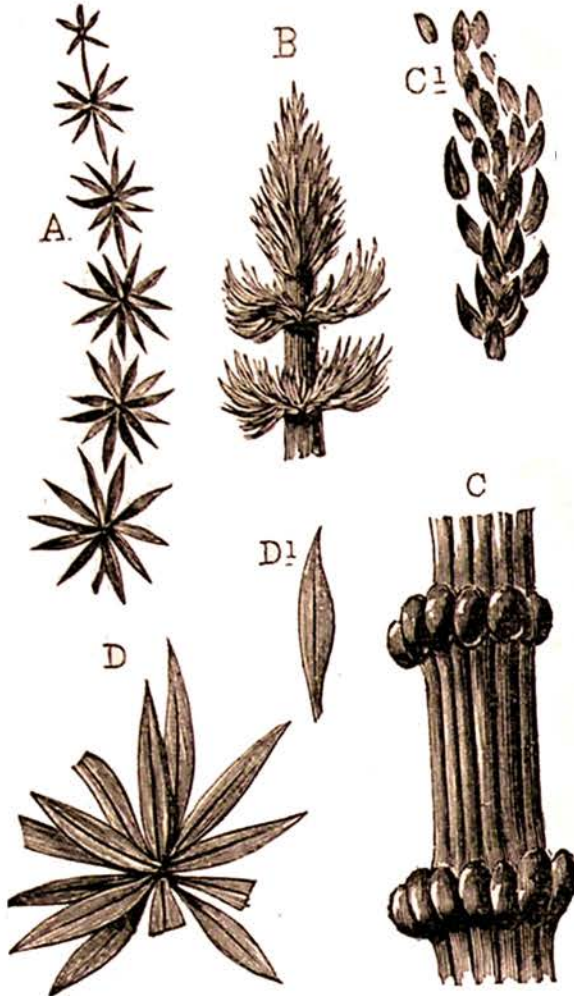


FIG. 28.—*Asterophyllites* (Erian, New Brunswick). A, *Asterophyllites latifolia*. B, Do., apex of stem (?) fruit. C, C¹, *A. scutigera*. D, *A. latifolia*, larger whorl of leaves. D¹, Leaf.

The family of the *Equisetaceæ*, or mare's-tails, was also represented by large species of *Calamites* and by *Asterophyllites* in the Erian; but, as its headquarters are in the Carboniferous, we may defer its consideration till the next chapter. (Figs. 27, 28.)

Passing over these for the present, we find that the flowering plants are represented in the Erian forests by at least two types of Gymnosperms, that of *Taxineæ* or yews,

and an extinct family, that of the *Cordaites* (Figs. 30, 31). The yew-trees are closely allied to the pines and spruces, and are often included with them in the family of *Coniferæ*. They differ, however, in the habit of producing berries or drupe-like fruits instead of cones, and there is some reason to believe that this was the habit of the Erian trees of this group, though their wood in some instances resembles rather that of the *Araucaria*, or Nor-