

A REMARKABLE CASE OF FASCIATION IN *OENOTHERA BIENNIS*.

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Near the middle of last July a student brought into one of the laboratories of the Botany Department of Indiana University a specimen of *Oenothera biennis* L., the stem of which was fasciated to such a remarkable degree that it is considered worthy of mention here.



The height of the plant was about 1.5 meters, which is probably a little more than the average for the plant in the vicinity of Bloomington; but the width and thickness of the stem were very much out of proportion to the height and to each other. Near the ground it was 5 cm. wide and 2 cm.

thick, but at the height of a meter, it was 21 cm. wide and only 5 to 8 mm. thick.

The upper part of the stem, for 15 or 20 cm., was divided into three thin flat branches, one of these being still further divided at the tip; and, near the base, there were three small, slender branches which were normal in appearance. (See the figure.)

The whole plant had a perfectly healthy appearance. The stem was densely covered with leaves, those near the edge being like the average for the species, and those farther away from the edges being much smaller than normal.

Covering the tips of the thin flat branches at the top of the plant, were a large number of flower buds—probably more than a thousand. Among these were several flowers and a few young fruits.

Since fasciation has, in some cases, proved a very profitable characteristic for experimental work, it would be interesting to test the hereditary qualities of such a phenomenal plant, but its seeds were not mature, and the roots are, of course, not expected to live for another flowering season. A search will be made for similar plants in the same locality next year.