

At least in this country, *gagatoides* is a very distinct species, and specimens from Murman and Jakutien, which I have had for comparison, have been as much or nearly as characteristic. If intermediate forms between *picea* and *gagatoides* should exist, they must be intermediate in other characters than pubescence only. The transition must take place gradually and comprise all characters.

I am not convinced of the existence of such intermediate forms, and — as mentioned above — I am not inclined to regard *gagatoides* as a form of *picea*.

If *gagatoides* were a simple variety of *picea*, one might suppose them both to be found and about equally common for instance in Norway. If *picea* inhabits this country — which is most likely — it is no doubt rather rare, at least not as common as *gagatoides*.

But at present only *gagatoides* is known to occur in Norway, and where I have had the occasion of seeing it myself in nature, it has been a xerophilous species, whilst *picea* is one of the most hygrophilous species known! (See e. g. Adlerz 1914, Bönner 1914—15).

One might suppose that *picea* and *gagatoides* with intermediate forms could live beside each other, e. g. in the central parts of *picea*'s area of distribution, and towards the periphery one of them might change habits, so that the extreme *gagatoides* here got an ecological race living on dry ground, the extreme *picea* a race living in sphagnum bogs, the intermediate forms disappearing.

But this seems little evident. *F.picea* is found in moors in Russia, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Great Britain, Germany etc, thus showing the same habits not only in a center, but wherever it lives, and it occurs no doubt under the same circumstances in Norway too.

Karawaiew remarks that his material from Jakutien consists of singly captured specimens without notes of ecological kind. Thus it is quite possible that *picea* and *gagatoides* in this material may have been taken in different spots, on damp and dry localities respectively.

I am convinced that we have here 2 species, one of them — *gagatoides* Ruzsky — being closely related to *fusca*, but having the little developed pubescence of the other species, *picea* Nyl. In Siberia they live, at least in certain districts, beside each other. Whether they here live in the same surroundings or not, is an open