SALIX FRAGILIS. CRACK WILLOW.

SYNONYMA. Salix. *Pharm. Edinb.* Salix folio longo latoque ſplendente, fragilis. *Raii Synop. p.* 448. Salix fragilis. *Bauh. Pin. p.* 474. *Hall. Stirp. Helv. n.* 1638. *Hudſon. Flor. Ang. p.* 426. *Withering. Bot. Arr. p.* 1102. *Relhan. Flor. Cant. p.* 365. *Flor. Lap. t.* 8. *f.* 6. *Hunter's Evelyn's Sylva, p.* 245.

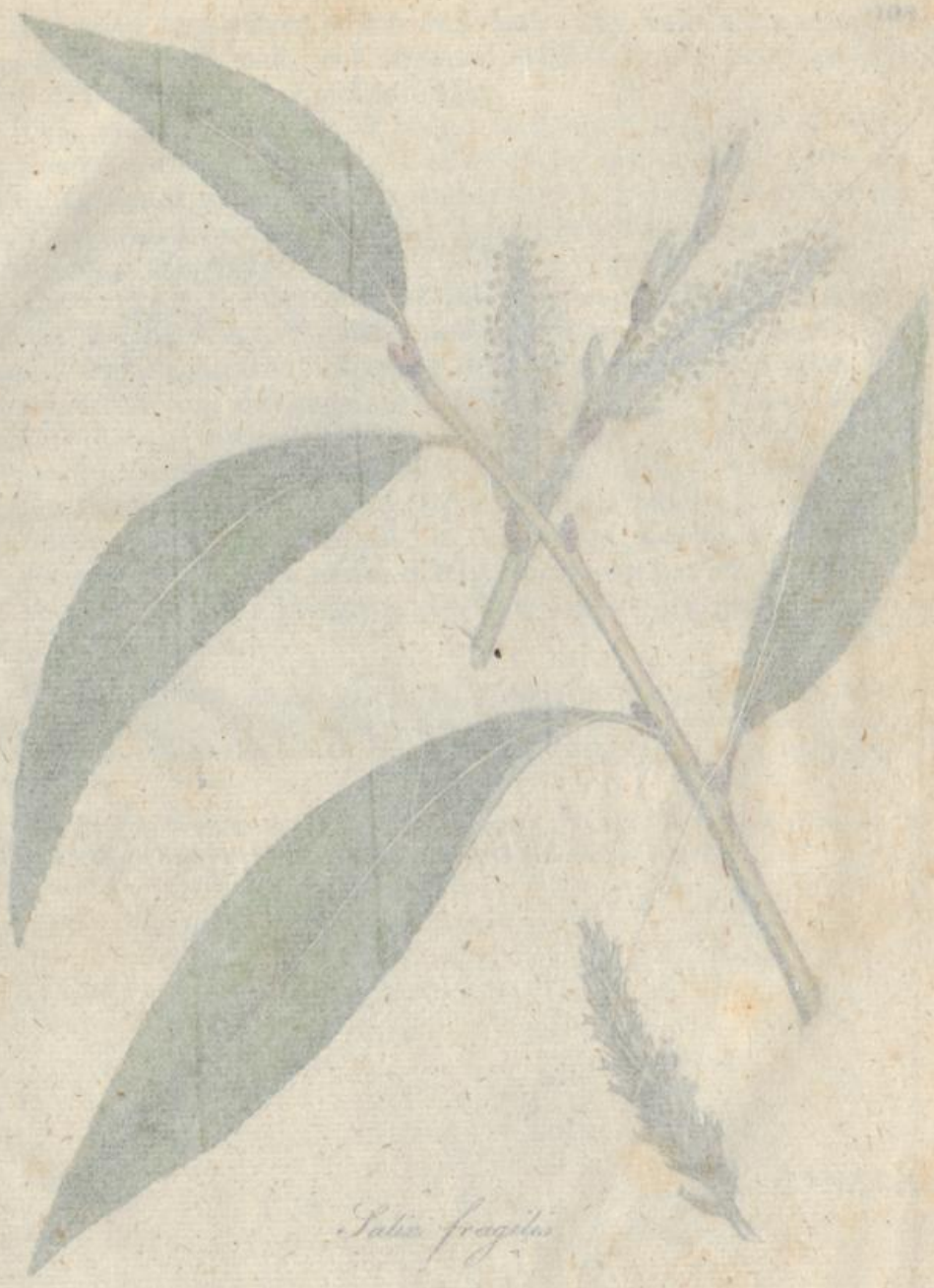
Claſs Dioecia. *Ord.* Diandria. *Lin. Gen. Plant.* 1098.

Eſſ. Gen. Ch. *Masc.* *Amenti* ſquamæ. *Cor.* o. *Glandula* baſeos nectarifera.

Fem. *Amenti* ſquamæ. *Cor.* o. *Stylus* 2-fidus. *Caps.* 1-locularis, 2-valvis. *Sem.* pappoſa.

Sp. Ch. S. foliis ſerratis glabris ovato-lanceolatis, petiolis dentato-glanduloſis.

THIS ſpecies grows to a conſiderable height, ſending off large branches, and is covered with wrinkled bark of a grey colour: the leaves are long, narrow, ovate, or lance-ſhaped, ſerrated, and placed upon footſtalks, which are furniſhed with glandular teeth: the flowers are male and female upon different trees, and produced in catkins: the calyx, or common catkin of the male flower, is oblong, imbricated; incloſed by an involucrum formed of a bud, and conſiſting of ſcales, which are oblong, flat, expanding, and unifloral: there is no corolla: the nectarium is a ſmall cylindrical truncated gland, containing honey, and placed in the centre of the flower: the filaments are two, ſtraight, filiform, longer than the calyx, and furniſhed with double antheræ of four cells: in the female flower the ſcaly catkin reſembles that of the male: the germen is egg-ſhaped, tapering, ſo as to leave no diſtinct ſtyle, and is longer than the ſcales: the ſtigmata are two, bifid and erect: the capſule is ovate, one-celled, and furniſhed



Salix fragilis

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THIS ſpecies grows to a conſiderable height, ſending off large branches, and is covered with wrinkled bark of a grey colour: the leaves are long, narrow, ovate, or lance-shaped, [illegible], and placed upon ſoftſtalks, which are furniſhed with glandular teeth: the flowers are male and female upon different trees, and produced in catkins: the calyx, or common catkin of the male flower, is oblong, imbricated; incloſed by an involucrum formed of a bud, and conſiſting of ſcales, which are oblong, flat, expanding, and [illegible]oral: there is no corolla: the nectarium is a ſmall cylindrical truncated gland, containing honey, and placed in the centre of the flower: the filaments are two, ſtraight, filiform, longer than the calyx, and furniſhed with double antheræ of four cells: in the female flower the ſcaly catkin reſembles that of the male: the germen is egg-ſhaped, tapering, ſo as to leave no diſtinct ſtyle, and is longer than the ſcales: the ſtigmata are two, bifid and erect: the capſule is ovate, one-celled; and furniſhed

Salix fragilis

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niſhed with two valves which roll back: the ſeeds are numerous, egg-ſhaped, very ſmall, and crowned with a ſimple hairy pappus. The flowers appear in April and May.

This tree, which grows in hedges and about the banks of rivers in ſeveral parts of England, is eaſily to be diſtinguiſhed from the other ſpecies of willow, by the readineſs with which it breaks at the year's ſhoot laſt made upon being ſlightly ſtruck with the finger; and hence the name *fragilis*.

The bark of the branches of this tree manifeſts a conſiderable degree of bitterneſs to the taſte, and is alſo aſtringent; hence it has been thought a good ſubſtitute for the Peruvian bark, and upon trial was found to ſtop the paroxyſms of intermittents:[a] it is likewiſe recommended in other caſes requiring tonic or aſtringent remedies. Not only the bark of this ſpecies of Salix, but that of ſeveral others, poſſeſs ſimilar qualities, particularly of the Salix alba & S. pentandria, both of which are recommended in the foreign pharmacopœias. But in our opinion the bark of the S. triandria is more effectual than that of any other of this genus; at leaſt its ſenſible qualities give it a decided preference.

[a] See *Gerhard. Mat. Med. p.* 301. *Phil. Tranſact. vol.* 53. *p.* 195. And *Medical Comment. vol.* 5. *p.* 298. Inſtances of the efficacy of Willow bark are alſo related by Cloſſius *(nov. variol. Med. Meth. p.* 128.*)* And Gunz. *Diſſ. binæ de cortice ſalicis. Lips.* 1772.

With Bergius however this bark did not ſucceed. He ſays, Ego hunc corticem in febribus intermittentibus iterum iterumque exhibui, ſed irrito conatu.