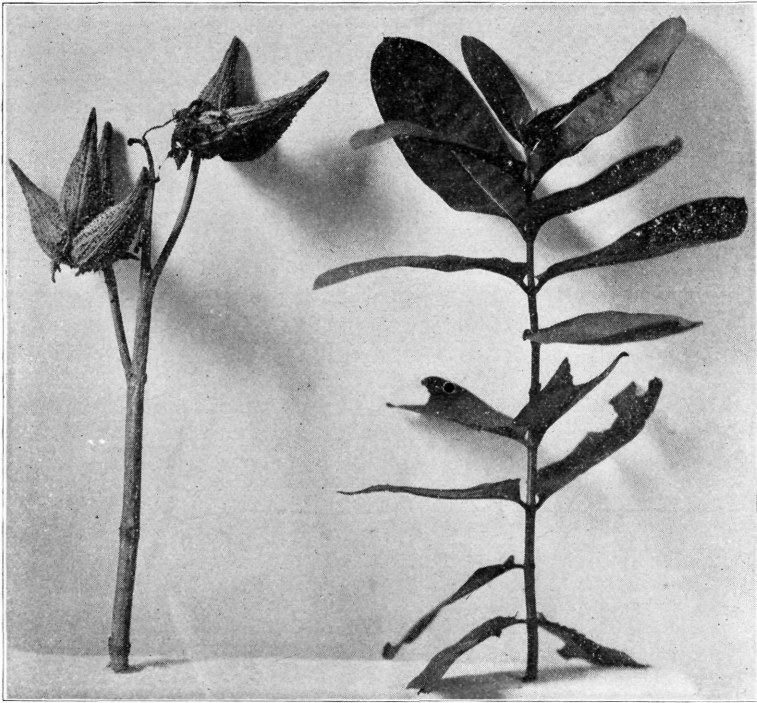


**OHIO GROWN RUBBER, CROP OF 1910.\***

CHARLES P. FOX.

**Product of Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*).** A common plant belonging to the Asclepiadaceae; found abundantly throughout the United States; classed as a weed, convicted as a bee-killer, advocated as a rubber producer. Too well known to need description.

*Asclepias syriaca.*

**Latex.** Milk-like, thin; acid or neutral reaction; characteristic odor of milkweed; does not coagulate on standing in a closed vessel; imperfectly coagulated by acids; thickened or partially coagulated by ammonia; coagulated by heat; coagulated by alcohol.

\* Presented at the Twentieth Annual Meeting, Ohio Acad. of Sci., Akron, Nov. 25.

**Coagulated Latex.** The coagulum is plastic and can be moulded into cakes resembling some of the cheaper grades of rubber. The whey contains mineral matter and sugar.

**Caoutchouc.** Obtained from the coagulum. Is flabby; lacks strength and firmness; is high in gravity. Responds to the sulfur chloride and bromine tests. Yield of rubber, on basis of latex, is 2 to 3%.

**Resin.** White, tasteless, odorless. Gives "asclepione," described by Watts as "radiating crystals insoluble in water and alcohol, and is not attacked by dilute caustic."

This plant has been suggested as a source of crude rubber. The project has engaged the serious attention of several parties during the past twenty years. A careful study of the question, covering a period of twelve years, indicates that while rubber is a product of the plant, the **amount** is so **small**, its **quality** is so **inferior**, and its **cost of production** is so high, that a profitable industry is out of the question.

---