

Suaeda maritima play a chief part, gives place to a secondary phase or "succession" in which the ground is mainly held by perennials, of which the above-named, along with the ubiquitous grass *Glyceria maritima*, are examples.

The whole of these forms are rosette-plants, that is to say, the foliage is produced in tufts at the surface of the ground. Branches rising above the surface only occur in connection with flowering, and the inflorescence axes so produced (whether leafy,

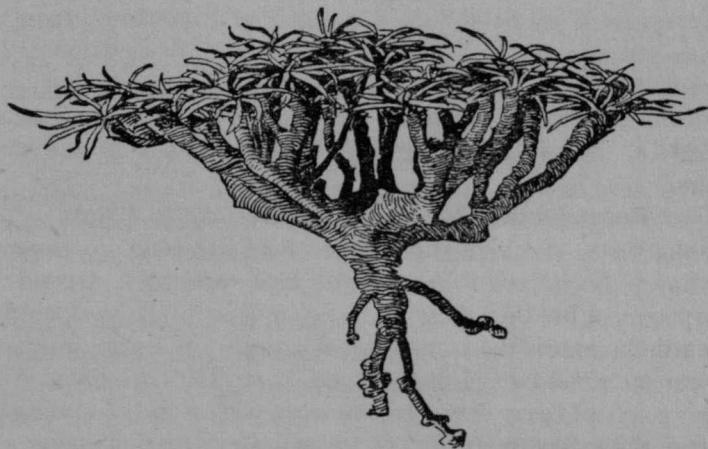


Fig. 45.—*Armeria maritima*, a typical perennial halophyte with rosette-like habit. $\frac{1}{3}$ nat. size

as in *Aster*, or otherwise) are non-permanent structures. As the surface slowly rises, these plants hold their place by producing their successive rosettes of leaves at slightly higher levels. Commonly this adjustment to changing level coincides with branching of the original crown, so that the area occupied by the plant undergoes peripheral expansion (cf. fig. 45).

In this manner numerous perennials will be brought into strenuous competition with one another for the limited space available, and it is to be expected that sometimes one species and sometimes another will prove successful in the struggle, according as one or other is favoured by the particular conditions of the habitat. Though the elements of the struggle have yet to be ascertained, it is probable that such types of high