Some Significant Iowa Plant Records from the Herbarium of University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Though the herbarium of University of Nebraska at Omaha (OMA) lies outside the state boundaries, it contains a number of interesting western Iowa records. Publishing these and other little-known Iowa plant records is especially important at this time, since a checklist of species, one species once thought extirpated from the state, one farmsteads and two cemeteries in the area were searched for the plant, (Roosa et al. 1989). It has been reported from Page (Wilson 1992), (E. Nyren pers. com.). How it arrived is unknown. Fifteen other east (Mackenzie 1897 and 1898). Records published in Wilson (1992) and Mills County. The plant is common in fencerows, windbreaks, and old machinery piles at four farmsteads belonging to or once farmed by Page (1988, Wilson 3094; TAYLOR COUNTY: French Reserve, property of the Taylor County Conservation Board, T68N, R32W, S ½ Section 15, 19 May 1987, Wilson 1210 and 1211; same locality, damp trail through upland woods, 2 June 1990, Wilson 4026. Carex hyalinolepis S. Beck. (Cyperaceae) is a southeastern sedge that reaches northwest Missouri (Steyermark 1963). A small population grows along the Wabash Trace Nature Trail on a former railroad right-of-way in FREMONT COUNTY: Wabash Trace railway, T70N, R40W, Section 35, Monroe Township, first curve south of the road, 28 July 1988, Wilson 2785; same locality, 15 June 1989, Wilson 3286. Carex radiata (Wahlenb.) Small (Cyperaceae) is an eastern sedge very similar to C. rosa Schkuhr. and C. consolata Mack. Wilson 4039 was identified as C. radiata by Anton A. Reznicek. The species was collected in a sunny old field in TAYLOR COUNTY: French Reserve, property of the Taylor County Conservation Board, T68N, R32W, S ½ Section 15, 19 May 1987, Wilson 1218; same location, 2 June 1990, Wilson 4039. Cassia obtusifolia L. (Caesalpiniiaceae) grows from the southeastern United States south through the American tropics and has been found in Kansas (Great Plains Flora Association 1986) and in Bellevue, Nebraska (Garbrandt 1988). It was also collected in FREMONT COUNTY: East edge of Section 14, T68N, R40W, E ½ Section 14, growing as a tolerated weed under a bird feeder in a flower garden where it was not planted, 10 October 1988, Wilson 2865. The plant did not flower, presumably because of the short Iowa growing season. While the species is only a transient member of Iowa’s flora, botanists may collect from time to time. Digitaria ciliaris (Retz.) Koel. (Poaceae; Crabgrass) grows from Nebraska south to South America and in the warmer parts of the Old World (Great Plains Flora Association 1986) and is well established at least in southwest Iowa, where it has been collected in Page County (Wilson 1992). FREMONT COUNTY: Maniti Park, grassy edge of gravel road in wet area, 29 August 1987, Wilson 2129; MILLS COUNTY: Wilson farm, 4.5 miles west and 2.5 miles south of Henderson, weed in perennial flower garden, 24 July 1983, Wilson 175; Wilson Slough, 3 miles south of Henderson, 15 August 1985, Wilson 705; POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY: Council Bluffs, alongside of railroad tracks, 100 yards N of Franklin Avenue Crossing, 2 October 1971, Wyman s.n. × Elybordeum montanense (Scribn. in Beal) Bowden (Poaceae), a hybrid of Hordeum jubatum L. and Elymus virginicus L., is uncommon in Iowa (Pohl 1966). A plant was found growing with both parental species in a wet road ditch dominated by Carex laevicollis in PAGE COUNTY: one mile north of Shenandoah on Highway 59, 28 July 1992, Wilson s.n. Euphorbia prostrata Ait. (Euphorbiaceae) grows in the southern United States, north to South Dakota (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). It resembles the much more common E. maculata L. Previously reported in Iowa only from Page County (Wilson, 1992), it is more...
widespread and has been collected in HARRISON COUNTY: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, T18N, R12E, N ¼ NE NE ¼ Section 22, dry roadside, 31 August 1974, Sutherland 3996; and MILLS COUNTY. Wilson farm, 4.5 miles west and 2.5 miles south of Henderson, edge of gravel road, 23 July 1983, Wilson 163; Willow Slough Public Hunting Area, 3 miles south of Henderson, edge of gravel road, 25 July 1984, Wilson 376.

Euphorbia × pseudovirgata (Schur) Soo (Euphorbiaceae; Hybrid Leafy Spurge) has not been reported previously in Iowa. It is similar to E. eula L., one of the parental species. Leafy Spurges from southwest Iowa key to the hybrid rather than E. eula in Flora of the Great Plains (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Apparently the hybrid, rather than E. eula, is the widespread problem weed in southwest Iowa, a point that may have legal implications since only E. eula and not the hybrid is listed as a noxious weed (Iowa Code, Section 317, 1991). The plant is persisting despite efforts at eradication in MILLS COUNTY: Willow Slough Public Hunting Area, 3 miles south of Henderson, common in grass on and near the dike, 13 July 1982, Wilson s.n.; same locality, 17 May 1988, Wilson 2523.

Geum vernum (Raf.) T. & G. (Rosaceae; Spring Aven) is on the western edge of its range in Iowa (Gleason 1952). Once believed extirpated from the state (Roosa et al. 1989), it was found in Page County (Wilson 1992). It also grows in TAYLOR COUNTY, where it is common in damp depressions in young Black Oak woods that were once pastured intensely, at the French Reserve, property of the Taylor County Conservation Board, T68N, R32W, S ½ Section 15, 5 May 1988, Wilson 2533; 19 May 1987, Wilson 4219; 2 June 1990, Wilson s.n.

Haplopappus ciliatus (Nutt.) DC. (Asteraceae; Goldenweeds) grows throughout the southern Great Plains (Great Plains Flora Association 1986) but is rare in Iowa, reported from Muscatine County (Eilers and Roosa 1989). It has also been collected in HARRISON COUNTY: median of Interstate 29 at the Modale exit, 19 September 1990, Duerer 70.

Ipomoea lacunosa L. (Convolvulaceae; Small White Morning Glory) was reported from only Des Moines and Muscatine Counties in IOWA (Counry Conservation Board, T68N, R32W, S ½ Section 15, 19 July 1990, Robbins). (Liliaceae; Spiderwort) was determined by Steven Rolfsmeier. The species grows between the Missouri River and Rocky Mountains (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). It was found in a wet depression in sand in WOODBURY COUNTY: Liberty Wildlife Area, 1.5 mile south of Sergeant Bluff, 15 June 1985, Wilson s.n.

Veratrum woodii Robbins. (Liliaceae; False Hellebore) grows in rich woodland from Ohio to Oklahoma. It can be difficult to find since it does not bloom every year, and it is considered endangered in Iowa (Roosa et al. 1989). Its discovery in flower in TAYLOR COUNTY is a surprise: French Reserve, property of the Taylor County Conservation Board, T68N, R32W, S ½ Section 15, 19 July 1990, Nancy Brown s.n.

Verbena hybrids, (Verbenaceae, Vervains). In the early 1980s, a noticeably variable population of vervains was growing in the pastures of the Wilson farm (parts of Sections 23-26, T73N, R41W, Mills County). Verbena stricta Vent. (Woolly Vervain) was the most common vervain in sunny pastures. V. strictifolia L. (White Vervain) was nearly as common as V. stricta, growing in both wooded and sunny parts of the pasture. V. hastata L. (Blue Vervain) grew in the damp spots. V. hastata Lag. & Rod. (Blue Vervain) was common on the edges of the adjacent gravel road.

Also growing in these pastures were the following hybrids: V × iliecta Moldenke (V. strictifolia × V. stricta); V × engelmannii Moldenke (V. strictifolia × V. hastata); and V × perriana Moldenke (V. strictifolia × V. bracteata). V. × engelmannii has been reported from Louisiana, Muscatine, and Van Buren Counties (Eilers and Roosa 1989) and V × iliecta and V × perriana had been reported from Page County (Wilson 1992), but the third hybrid was not listed in Eilers and Roosa (1989). All three hybrids had been listed from Iowa in Gleason (1952).

Subsequently, the pastures were sprayed with herbicide each year in early May. Vervain populations declined precipitously and hybrids were not found. Recent management changes are favoring the spread of vervains in the pasture again, and perhaps hybrids will form again in the future.

The representative specimens are from MILLS COUNTY, 1981, in pastures along Mud Creek on the Wilson farm in Sections 23 and 26 and were collected by Wilson: four specimens of V. × engelmannii collected on 8 August; nine specimens of V. × iliecta, representing at least eight plants, collected on July 30, 8 August, and 15 August; six specimens of V. × perriana representing at least three plants, collected on 30 July and 8 August.

CONCLUSION

Despite recent field work, much remains to be learned about distribution of Iowa's plants. The herbarium of the University of
Nebraska at Omaha is an important source of information about southwest Iowa plants.

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REFERENCES
