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Iowa Plants Notes, IV

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IOWA PLANT NOTES, IV

R. I. CRATTY

In three former papers ¹ the writer has listed numerous plants new to our state, or noteworthy for other reasons. As might be expected a large number of these have been introduced from other portions of the United States or from foreign countries. Some of these plants may prove to be merely waifs, never becoming a permanent part of our flora, but this is a matter which only time can decide. Even some of our southern immigrants are steadily creeping northward, and are proving that they can withstand our severe northern winters, while some old world species find our rich soil very much to their liking, and are even more aggressive than in their native habitats.

An effort is being made to preserve in the State College Herbarium as complete a representation of our flora as possible, not only as to the number of species, but also of their geographical distribution. Good herbarium specimens from new localities or additions to our flora are always very welcome.

The following plants are noted at this time:

1. *Pyrola secunda* L. This pretty woodland plant was collected near Estherville in March, 1928, by B. O. Wolden. Although quite rare in Iowa, the species ranges clear across the northern part of the United States.

2. *Sisymbrium thalianum* (L.) J. Gay. (*Stenophragma Celak*). This introduced European crucifer, which is comparatively rare from Massachusetts to Kansas and southward, was collected at Fort Dodge by F. W. Paige.

3. *Potamogeton interruptus* Kitabel. A rare, and very slender, filiform-leaved species. Collected in Lake Okoboji in 1926 by F. W. Paige. The whole genus is variable and difficult, and mature fruit is a great aid in determination.

4. *Malvastrum coccineum* (Pursh) A. Gray. This very common species of the western plains was collected at Missouri Valley by Dr. L. H. Pammel. Both it and *M. angustum* Gray are credited to our state in the 7th edition of Gray's Manual, but we have no Iowa specimen of the latter.

5. *Ammannia coccinea* Rottb. (*A. latifolia* T. & G.), was collected at Fort Dodge by F. W. Paige. It is apparently one of our rarer plants.

6. *Petalostemum oligophyllum* (Torr.) Ryd. This plant of the western plains was collected in Monona and Woodbury counties by Dr. Pammel.

¹ Iowa Acad. Science, XXXI, 189-92; XXXIII, 125-8; XXV, 105-9.

Iowa specimens of this have been erroneously referred to *P. multiflorum* Nutt., which also occurs sparingly in the same region.

7. *Cuphea petiolata* (L.) Koehne. (*C. viscosissima* Jacq.), was collected at Keokuk in 1901 by F. H. Rolfs. It is one of our rarer plants.

8. *Rotala ramosior* (L.) Koehne. (*Ammannia humilis* Michx.). This is another infrequent Iowa plant which was collected at Muscatine by Dr. Pammel and Ferdinand Reppert.

9. *Oenothera laciniata* Hill. (*Oe. sinuata* L.). Our only Iowa specimen of this was collected in Des Moines in 1924 by Mrs. R. W. Zeuch, where it was undoubtedly introduced. Its range as given in our manuals includes Iowa by inference, but it must be very rare within our limits.

10. *Medicago falcata* L. This is one of our rare introduced plants. A fine clump of it was found by the writer on the knoll south of the Memorial Building at Ames, the station since destroyed. It has also been communicated from Sac county by Henry S. Moler, and from Ringold county by the County Agent. The plant is a native of Asia.

11. *Polygonella articulata* (L.) Meisn. This is one of our very rare plants, unless overlooked because of its resemblance to *Rumex acetosella*. It was collected in September, 1902, at Steamboat Rock, Hardin county, by Miss Charlotte M. King.

12. *Bromus japonicus* Thunb. This Japanese species which came to us by way of Europe, has been referred to elsewhere by the writer.² In the 7th Edition of Gray's Manual the descriptions of *Bromus arvensis* and *B. japonicus* both fit the latter species. I am indebted to Mrs. Agnes Chase of the U. S. Dept. of Agrostology for clearing up this confusion. Mrs. Chase also adds that the former species does not occur in this country. *B. japonicus* is a beautiful grass, stooling very profusely, and occurs on vacant lots in Ames, and we also have it from Ida Grove, Keystone, and Cedar Falls.

13. *Vaccinium canadense* Kalm. This common blueberry of the northern woods was collected on a south slope of St. Peter sandstone near McGregor in August, 1927, by Dr. Pammel. The only other species of the genus in our collection from Iowa are *V. corymbosum* and *V. pennsylvanicum*. The family of *Ericaceae* is very sparingly represented in our flora.

14. *Axyris amarantoides* L. This plant, the Russian Pigweed, was introduced into the wheat fields of Manitoba and the Dakotas from Russia or Siberia, and has made its appearance in Iowa, having been collected in Crawford county in August, 1929, by Dr. Pammel and Iver D. Butler. It and the following are new additions to our list of weeds.

15. *Torilis anthriscus* (L.) Gmel. This addition to our list of umbilifers was collected May 30, 1929, between Hubbard and Eldora by Dr. Pammel. *T. nodosa* (L.) Gaertn. is credited to Iowa in the 2nd edition of the Illustrated Flora, but we have no native specimens of this plant from the state. It is a decumbent, spreading species with smaller, and more finely cut leaves than *T. anthriscus*. Both species occur sparingly from the Atlantic seaboard westward.

16. *Erysimum asperum* D. C., was collected on a rocky ledge near Mount Zion, Van Buren county, May 29, 1929, by Mrs. A. A. Campbell where it was apparently native.

17. *Arenaria serpyllifolia* L. This immigrant from Europe was found

² Iowa State Jour. of Science III, p. 251.

growing abundantly on a dry, pastured ridge in woods, southwest of Estherville, August 4, 1929, by B. O. Wolden.

18. *Helianthus tuberosus* L. A remarkable teretological form of this species with the stem leaves in whorls of three was collected in Wapello county, September 3, 1929, by Dr. J. M. Aikman and the writer. This appears to be the most common woodland species of the genus in southern Iowa.

19. *Coreopsis tinctoria* Nutt., has been found as an escape on railroad right-of-way in Des Moines by Dr. Pammel, and has been seen in several other localities, but no native specimen has come to our notice, although Iowa is in the area of its distribution as given in our manuals.

20. *Scleria verticillata* Muhl. This new addition to our list of sedges was collected August 27, 1929, in a marsh a few miles northwest of Estherville by B. O. Wolden.

21. *Cosmos bipinnatus* Cav. This common garden annual from Mexico has been found as an escape in a few places. It may not be sufficiently hardy to become naturalized.

22. *Ailanthus altissima* (Nutt.) Swingle (*A. glandulosa* Desf.). This species, the Chinese Tree of Heaven, is extensively naturalized in the eastern United States, and was found growing as an escape near Keokuk by Dr. Pammel.

23. *Crepis capillaris* (L.) Wallr. This European composite was found in Grinnell in 1919, by Dr. H. S. Conard where it had been introduced in grass seed. In July, 1929, Dr. Pammel found a large patch of it growing on a vacant lot in Marshalltown. It is frequent in fields and waste places eastward.

24. *Anthemis tinctoria* L. This handsome European composite, the Yellow Chamomile of the gardens, was found escaped to the roadside in Clayton county in August, 1929, by Dr. Pammel. It is becoming frequent east of the Mississippi.

25. *Eragrostis suaveolens* Becker. (*E. collina* Trin.). This grass, cultivated from Russia, was found growing as an escape at Ames in 1895. As it has not been reported since, it has probably disappeared.

26. *Equisetum kansanum* Schaffner. Collectors have always had trouble with the *Equisetum laevigatum* of our manuals. In 1912, Dr. J. H. Schaffner of Ohio State University, a world authority on this difficult genus, published a new species, *E. kansanum*, which he finds confused with the former species in many collections. While visiting the Iowa State College Herbarium, he kindly looked over this genus and found *E. kansanum* from the following localities: High Lake Tp. Emmet county, B. O. Wolden; Ames, Fannie P. Adams, Fraser, L. H. Pammel; Shelby county, T. J. Fitzpatrick; Story County, R. I. Cratty, and Le Claire, Scott county, P. H. Rolfs.

27. *Bidens involucrata* (Nutt.) Britton. This pretty composite is very common in the southern part of the state, occurring in large patches in low ground, and is gradually working northward. It is often confused with two similar species, *B. trichosperma* and *B. aristosa*, which are comparatively rare in the northeastern section. The mature akenes, and the bracts furnish the most reliable characters in distinguishing these three species.

28. *Quercus lyrata* Walt. This rare oak, reported some years ago from near Amana by Dr. B. S. Shimek, has since been found at Centerville by

Fred B. Trenk, and a single large tree of it near Keokuk by Dr. Pammel.

Another oak, typical specimens of which seem never to have been found native in Iowa, is *Q. coccinea*. This was collected September 3, 1929, just across the Mississippi at Hamilton, Illinois, by Dr. Pammel, and diligent search may yet find it on the west side of the river.

29. *Artemisia abrotanum* L. This plant, the Old Man of our gardens, was collected as an escape at Keokuk in September, 1929, by Dr. Pammel, and several years ago Mrs. F. May Tuttle collected it as an escape at Osage.

30. *Gentiana saponaria* L. In October, 1919, the writer collected a specimen of this species in low ground near the northwestern right-of-way at Ames, and at that time referred it to our common *G. andrewsii*. I am indebted to Dr. C. O. Rosendahl of the University of Minnesota, for picking this out of our collection. It resembles *G. andrewsii* quite closely, except that the flowers open slightly, and the lobes of the corolla equal or exceed the length of the plaits. It also occurs very sparingly in Minnesota.

31. *Silene antirrhina divaricata* Robinson. This tall, slender branching variety, the petals wanting, was collected at Ottumwa in May, 1928, by Dr. Pammel. It ranges, from Massachusetts to Illinois and Missouri.

32. *Artemisia purshiana* Besser. This plant of the western plains was collected in dry ground near Estherville, August 17, 1926, by B. O. Wolden. It was found growing in dry ground with *A. pabularis*, another of our very rare plants. This is probably its eastern limit. It ranges as far west as California and British Columbia.

33. *Borrago officinalis* L. This was collected as an escape at Blairstown, Benton county, by Dr. Pammel. It is probably not sufficiently hardy to persist in this latitude.

34. *Botrychium obliquum* Muhl. (*B. ternatum obliquum* D. C. Eaton). A very rare fern west of the Mississippi River was collected in 1926 near Bentonsport, Van Buren county, by E. W. Graves.

35. *Botrychium dissectum* Spreng. (*B. ternatum dissectum* D. C. Eaton), was also collected by Mr. Graves the same year near the former locality, the only locality in the state so far as known to the writer.

36. *Schedonnardus paniculatus* (Nutt.) Trel. (*S. texanus* Steud.). Very rare, found on the top of a high hill near Menlo, Guthrie county, by J. R. Miller, July 28, 1928. Our first specimen from the state.

37. *Hydrocotyle americana* L. This water-loving umbilifer was collected in a bog northwest of Estherville, July 30, 1929, by Mr. B. O. Wolden.

IOWA STATE COLLEGE,
AMES, IOWA.