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A Comparative Study of the Weeds of Central Iowa, Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin

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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE WEEDS OF CENTRAL IOWA, NORTHERN MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN.

L. H. PAMMEL.

During a short trip made by the writer in northern Minnesota from Cass Lake to Duluth in Minnesota, St. Croix, Wisconsin, and Taylors Falls, Minnesota, some observations were made on the introduced plants. The route covered was over the Northern Pacific from Minneapolis to Walker and Cass Lake; from Cass Lake over the Great Northern Railway to Duluth, and via the Northern Pacific to St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

The weeds of the region have been given by Upham¹ in his Catalogue of the Flora of Minnesota.

The plants of the St. Croix region were listed by Dr. C. C. Parry.²

The plants listed here are based on observation at various stations, although collections of plants were made in Cass Lake, Star and Cedar Islands and the vicinity. Collections were also made in Duluth, St. Croix Falls and Taylors Falls.

In order to list these plants in a convenient form I am arranging the plants in the form of a table.

| Name of Plant | Ames, Iowa | St. Paul, Minn. | Brainerd, Minn. | Cass Lake, Minn. | Duluth, Minn. | St. Croix Falls, Wis. |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> | + | + | | + | | |
| <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> | + | + | | | + | + |
| <i>Ambrosia trifida</i> | + | + | | | + | + |
| <i>Artemisia biennis</i> | + | + | | | + | + |
| <i>Achillea Millefolium</i> | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| <i>Anthemis Cotula</i> | + | + | + | | + | + |
| <i>Arctium major</i> | + | + | + | | + | + |
| <i>Agropyron repens</i> | + | + | | + | + | + |
| <i>Agropyron Smithii</i> | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| <i>Brassica arvensis</i> | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| <i>Brassica nigra</i> | + | + | | | + | + |
| <i>Bidens frondosa</i> | + | + | + | | + | + |
| <i>Agrostemma Githago</i> | | + | + | + | + | + |
| <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> | + | + | + | + | + | + |

¹Geol. and Nat. Hist. Survey of Minn. Pt. VI, Progress Rep. 1883. 1 Mar.

²David Dale Owen. Rep. Geol. Survey, Wis., Ia. and Minn., 606-622. Philadelphia, 1852.

| Name of Plant | Ames, Iowa | St. Paul, Minn. | Brainerd, Minn. | Cass Lake, Minn. | Duluth, Minn. | St. Croix Falls, Wis. |
|---|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Cannabis sativa</i> | ++ | ++ | | | | |
| <i>Chenopodium album</i> | ++ | ++ | | | | ++ |
| <i>Cirsium discolor</i> | ++ | ++ | | | | ++ |
| <i>Eragrostis pilosa</i> | + | + | + | | | + |
| <i>Epilobium spicatum</i> | | | | + | + | |
| <i>Helianthus annuus</i> | + | ++ | | | | + |
| <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> | + | ++ | + | | | |
| <i>Lophanthus anisatus</i> | | ++ | | + | + | |
| <i>Melilotus alba</i> | + | ++ | + | | | |
| <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> | ++ | ++ | | | | |
| <i>Oxybaphus nyctagineus</i> | ++ | ++ | | + | | |
| <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> | ++ | ++ | + | ++ | + | + |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Cirsium lanceolata</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ | + | + |
| <i>Daucus Carota</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | | | |
| <i>Erigeron canadense</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | + | + | + |
| <i>Euphorbia corollata</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | | | |
| <i>Grindelia squarrosa</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | + | + | + |
| <i>Hordeum jubatum</i> | + | ++ | + | ++ | ++ | + |
| <i>Helianthus petiolaris</i> | | ++ | | | + | |
| <i>Helianthus Maximiliani</i> | | ++ | | | ++ | |
| <i>Iva xanthifolia</i> | + | ++ | + | + | ++ | + |
| <i>Lactuca pulchella</i> | | ++ | + | ++ | ++ | |
| <i>Lactuca Scariola var. integrata</i> .. | + | ++ | | ++ | ++ | + |
| <i>Lepidium apetalum</i> | ++ | ++ | + | + | + | |
| <i>Nepeta Cataria</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | | | |
| <i>Oenothera biennis</i> | + | ++ | + | | + | + |
| <i>Panicum sanguinale</i> | ++ | ++ | | | | |
| <i>Panicum crus-galli</i> | ++ | ++ | + | | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Polygonum erectum</i> | ++ | ++ | | | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> | ++ | ++ | + | + | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Polygonum convolvulus</i> | ++ | ++ | + | + | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Pastinaca sativa</i> | + | ++ | | | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Plantago major</i> | | + | + | + | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Ranunculus acris</i> | | | | | ++ | |
| <i>Ranunculus septentrionalis</i> | + | + | | + | | |
| <i>Rumex acetosella</i> | ++ | ++ | + | | | + |
| <i>Rumex crispus</i> | ++ | ++ | | | + | ++ |
| <i>Rumex altissimus</i> | ++ | ++ | | | + | ++ |
| <i>Silene stellata</i> | ++ | ++ | | | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i> | ++ | ++ | | + | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Solidago canadensis</i> | ++ | ++ | + | ++ | ++ | ++ |
| <i>Sonchus arvensis</i> | | ++ | | | | |
| <i>Saponaria officinalis</i> | | ++ | | | | |
| <i>Setaria viridis</i> | ++ | ++ | + | | + | + |
| <i>Setaria glauca</i> | ++ | + | + | | | |
| <i>Setaria verticillata</i> | ++ | | | | | |
| <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> | ++ | + | + | + | + | + |
| <i>Urtica gracilis</i> | ++ | ++ | | | + | + |
| <i>Verbena stricta</i> | ++ | ++ | + | | | |
| <i>Verbena hastata</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | | | |
| <i>Verbena urticaefolia</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | | | + |
| <i>Vicia sativa</i> | ++ | ++ | ++ | + | + | ++ |

The striking differences occur in a few of the common weeds of central Iowa and northern Minnesota. The boreal weeds like the European Crowfoot (*Ranunculus acris*), fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), the Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), *Lophanthus anisatens* become increasingly common in the north. The absence of the *Ranunculus acris*, fireweed, and *Lophanthus* in our flora is of interest. The abundance of corn cockle and tumbling mustard vetch (*Vicia sativa*) in the north can be accounted for easily because of the shipment of grain from western Minnesota and Dakota.

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