

Morong in his monograph limits this variety to the plants of the shallow pools which have "a compact, bushy habit, leaves 1-3 inches long." This passes without perceptible demarcation to the equally coarse plant with longer leaves and an elongate stem. It seems better and more consistent to include these under the var. *Macounii*. A plant cited¹ as *P. juncifolius* Kern. from North Pond, Prince Edward Island, seems to belong here.

Another American specimen named *P. juncifolius* Kern. from Labrador, in the Ungava River, Fort Chimo, Aug. 23, 1896, *Spreadborough*, (C no. 16,471) may be correctly identified, but it is so young that it is difficult to name with any certainty.

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LAPPULA DEFLEXA IN VERMONT.

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As a result of my discovery in July, 1914, of a considerable colony of the "Nodding Stickseed," *Lappula deflexa* (Wahlenb.) Garcke, in Derby, Orleans County, Northern Vermont, I have been interested to investigate the history and the range of this attractive though somewhat weedy stranger. The plants were growing along one side of the main road leading south from Derby Line, in open country, about a mile from the village. The highway appeared to have been recently, extensively repaired or reconstructed, thus confirming the impression that the plants had been introduced.

Like all the Stickseeds *L. deflexa* is admirably adapted by its prickly-barbed nutlets to easy and wide distribution by railroads and other carriers. And yet my brief study of this species and its history indicates that, despite these devices for migration, the plant has failed hitherto to extend materially its long recorded range. *Lappula deflexa* (*Echinospermum deflexum*, Lehm.) is found in Siberia and continental Europe and has long been known in the extreme northwestern United States and the adjacent Canadian provinces. And recent collections by Prof. Fernald and others show that the species is indigenous in

¹ Bennett in Journ. Bot. xlvii 162 (1908).

Percé and extreme eastern Quebec. But between these Eastern and Western ranges lies a vast territory where our plant is scarcely known; being represented in the Gray Herbarium by three or four collections only, and these from stations which are sporadic and transitory.

In 1882, Dr. Gray, revising *Echinosperrum deflexum*,¹ distinguished the "variety *Americanum* (which makes some approach to *E. Virginicum*) the somewhat more granulate dorsal disk not rarely bearing two or three small glochidiate prickles on an obscure midnerve." And in the last edition of the Manual, this variety is cited with brief characterization, and given a range "Iowa to Manitoba, westw. and northw." only. Now among the few specimens of transitory occurrence to which allusion is made above, collected between these far distant stations in eastern Canada and our extreme northwest territory, is one in the Gray Herbarium, labeled "Bluffs of the Mississippi, Clinton County, Iowa, 6-20-1878, leg. Geo. D. Butler."

Upon this collection alone cited by Dr. Gray, rests the record of the occurrence of *L. deflexa*, var. *americana* in Iowa. Careful examination however, shows clearly that this Iowa plant is typical *L. deflexa*; and with this corrected determination apparently disappears all record of the occurrence of the variety *americana* within the limits of Gray's Manual.

Lappula deflexa is not given in the first edition (1898) of the Illustrated Flora of Britton and Brown, and our plant appears there as *Lappula americana* (A. Gray) Rydberg. In the last edition (1913) the treatment is reversed, the species appearing as *L. deflexa* (Wahl.) Garcke, and variety *Americana* is not recognized as valid. And the ranges given are substantially in accord with those of the Gray Manual.

It is certain that my Vermont plants have the few barbed prickles along the middle of the nutlets which are characteristic of the varietal form, and it seems to follow that this little colony has traveled hither from its home in the far West, rather than the much nearer "Eastern Quebec," the home of the typical plant with the smoother nutlets.

It may be noted that the plant here discussed forms an addition to the recorded flora of Vermont, as it does not appear in the recently published new edition of the state flora. Vt. Agric. Sta., Bull. 187 (1915).

It will be interesting to observe whether also it persists and increases

¹ Proc. Am. Academy, XVII, p. 224, note.

in its new station. Possibly, too, this note may bring forth information from other herbaria concerning this vagrant; specimens of which have been placed in the Herbarium of the New England Botanical Club.

In this pleasant task I have had the advice and assistance of Mr. J. Francis Macbride, who, in connection with his own technical and critical studies in the revision of the Boraginaceae at the Gray Herbarium, has carefully determined all the collections which I have mentioned.

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PRUNUS VIRGINIANA THE CORRECT NAME OF THE CHOKE CHERRY.

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THE Choke Cherry of the northern United States and Canada, characterized by having the comparatively short leaves with sharp fine serrations and the crimson fruit in comparatively short racemes, has in recent years been generally known as *Prunus virginiana* L. or, by those who treat it as belonging to a separate genus, *Padus virginiana* (L.) Mill.; while the more southern Black or Rum Cherry, having longer leaves with short incurved blunter teeth and more elongated racemes of purplish-black cherries on purplish pedicels, has been generally known as *Prunus serotina* Ehrh. Very recently however the Choke Cherry has appeared in American literature¹ under the name *Padus nana* (Du Roi) Roemer, while the Black Cherry is called *Padus virginiana* (L.) Mill. This change from established usage in the interpretation of the specific name *virginiana* based upon *Prunus virginiana* arises, apparently, through a somewhat natural misinterpretation as to exactly what Linnaeus had. The Linnean treatment of *Prunus virginiana* was as follows:

“PRUNUS floribus racemosis, foliis deciduis basi antice *Virginiana*. glandulosis.

Cerasus sylvestris, fructu nigricante in racemis longis pendulis phytolaccae instar congestis. *Gron. virg.* 54. *Roy. lugdb.* 537.

¹ Britton in Britton & Brown, Ill. Fl. ii. 329 (1913).