OREGON FLORA NEWSLETTER

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Aaron Liston: Director of the OSU Herbarium

by Camille V. Tipton

After years of studying Mediterranean plants in Jerusalem, Herbarium Director Aaron Liston faces new challenges in research, teaching, and participating in the Oregon Flora Project.

Aaron, an assistant professor at Oregon State University, teaches plant systematics and evolution. He oversees four graduate students working in diverse projects including molecular biogeography — using data from molecular studies to answer biogeographical questions — and conservation genetics.

Recently, his interests have expanded to include conservation studies in Oregon flora and coevolution between pines and their associated endophytic fungi. His botanical interest began with Mediterranean and Southwest Asian floras in 1981 while he was studying at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem and now focuses on plant molecular systematics and evolution.

Aaron, a native of Arizona, began his career with OSU in 1991 after receiving his Ph.D. from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California.

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Aaron Liston

More New Name Changes: Daisies and Tansies

by Kenton L. Chambers

In previous articles dealing with changes in the names of Oregon plants I have suggested that there are several reasons for names of familiar species to be altered. New taxonomic research may change our ideas of relationships, or alternatively, past errors may be discovered that invalidate certain names.

During my studies of some genera of Compositae (Asteraceae) for the Oregon Flora Checklist, a third reason for name-changing has appeared; it might be called simply "breaking with tradition." By this I mean that the traditional names used in standard West Coast floras and manuals may have been incorrect or out-of-date years ago when the books were written.

The daisies and tansies mentioned in the title are classified in *Chrysanthemum* and *Tanacetum* in the standard floras for Oregon. Many are not natives here but are Eurasian garden plants or weeds. Over several decades, beginning in 1916, European botanists studied these genera, reclassifying many of the species. The changes were accepted and became common in European floras but were ignored or overlooked by the authors of our western American floras.

The common oxeye daisy, *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* was long ago renamed *Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam. in European botanical references, because significant taxonomic differences were found between the two genera. We are using the latter name for oxeye daisy in our Checklist and it also appears in the new *Jepson Manual* for California. There is one species of true *Chrysanthemum* which we believe has escaped from cultivation in Oregon, *C. segetum* L. (corn marigold). It was collected by Lilla Leach at Gold Beach, Curry County in 1928, and botanists in that part of Oregon should look for it in weedy waste areas away from garden cultivation. The *Jepson Manual* says it is commonly naturalized in coastal regions of northwestern California.

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Two other European plants that have traditionally been classified in *Chrysanthemum* in Oregon floras will be renamed species of *Tanacetum*, following European practice. These are *Tanacetum parthenium* (L.) Sch. Bip., (feverfew or featherfew), and *Tanacetum balsamita* L., (costmary). Both are found occasionally as escapees in Oregon. Readers of this article are urged to be on the lookout for Shasta daisy escaped from cultivation; we need better verification of this having occurred in Oregon (there is only one old herbarium record from Salem, in 1922). The name used for this plant in the Checklist is *Leucanthemum maximum* (Ramond) DC.

Common tansy, *Tanacetum vulgare* L., a non-native species, retains this name in our Checklist, but the native dune tansy, formerly *Tanacetum douglasii* is renamed as *T. camphoratum* Less. Typical forms of the latter species occur in central coastal California, but there is too much intergradation northward into south-coastal Oregon to allow separation of two species. Finally, two species native to eastern Oregon, traditionally placed in *Tanacetum*, have been transferred to *Sphaeromeria* as *S. potentilloides* (A. Gray) A. Heller, and *S. cana* (D. C. Eaton) A. Heller. The latter taxon barely enters the state on Steens Mountain from its main range farther south. Additional collections are needed to judge the extent of the Oregon populations of *S. cana*, as only three old herbarium records of it exist.

The Oregon Flora Newsletter is published quarterly by the Oregon State University Herbarium and the Oregon Flora Project. The Editor is Rhoda Love and the Production Assistant is Camille V. Tipton.

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Before that, he received a bachelors degree in biology and a masters degree in botany in Jerusalem.

"I started working in the herbarium sorting species (in 1981) and I fell in love with it," he said. "I knew that was my life's work. It clicked. It just clicked."

In addition to his course work, he travelled extensively in Israel and published several articles on the flora of the country. In 1985, he traveled to the Canary Islands to identify Mediterranean plants. His masters thesis analyzed introduced and native weedy species in Israel's Arava Valley, nestled between the Dead and Red seas.

The desire to identify Western North American plants with evolutionary ties to plants in the Middle East led him back to the United States in 1986 to complete his dissertation *An evolutionary study of* Astragalus *sect.* Leptocarpi *subsect.* Californici.

During his Ph.D. work, he collected plants in Mexico. Later, he spent six weeks collecting in a remote region of northwest China along the "Silk Road." He said the plant collecting trips weren't directly related to his dissertation, but contributed to other published work.

Current projects at OSU include clarifying the phylogenetic position of *Astragalus* (milk vetch) and related legumes; working on the pines of Mexico in collaboration with a botanist at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and on the phylogeny of *Lathyrus* (sweet pea) in collaboration with the botanists of the University of Aarhus, Denmark.

He has recently completed a draft treatment of *Astragalus* for the Oregon Checklist. Aaron has published dozens of articles in technical journals and is cited in the *Jepson Manual.*

Aaron and his wife, Sara — whom he met on a plant collecting field trip — enjoy traveling, working in their garden at home, and visiting the gardens of others.

Atlas Workshops to Follow NPSO Symposium

A symposium on the "Conservation and Management of Oregon's Native Flora," sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Oregon and the OSU Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, will be held at Oregon State University, November 15-17.

On the 17th after the symposium, brief workshops will be held for people who wish to participate in the Atlas project by making species lists, being regional coordinators, or helping in other ways. For information on the Atlas project workshops contact Scott Sundberg. For information on the NPSO symposium contact Bruce Rittenhouse at (503) 756-0100.

Herbarium Home Page Goes On-line

by Camille V. Tipton

Within the next five years, computerized publications, such as floras and journals, will become increasingly available over the Internet via the World Wide Web. The computer revolution will make more information available to every computer-user.

"I see people being able to use publications straight off the web," said Aaron Liston, assistant professor at OSU and the university's herbarium director. "The lines between book publications and web publications could become very blurred. What that means to the majority of botanists in Oregon is that they will have up-to-date, up-to-the-minute information."

In order to access the world of information out there, you need to have access to the appropriate software (a web browser like Netscape or Mosaic works well).

Once you have installed the necessary software, check out the Oregon State University herbarium home page at the **http://www.orst.edu/Dept/botany/herbarium/** address.

Web services offered by OSU's herbarium home page include an overview of the herbarium; information on current projects; biographies of staff, students, and volunteers; and current and past issues of the Oregon Flora Newsletter. From the herbarium home page you can link up to other botanical references throughout the world, selecting and reading only the topics that interest you.

The herbarium Web site was designed and is maintained by Eric Peterson, an undergraduate at OSU, under the guidance of Aaron Liston.

The Oregon Flora Project intends to make its publications available in electronic form over the World Wide Web so keep an eye on the OSU home page over the next few years.

Illustrations of *Erythronium oreganum* by Jeanne Janish, taken from Hitchcock et al. 1969, *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, courtesy of the University of Washington Press.

Oregon Flora Project News

by Scott Sundberg

The project continues to roll along, with special attention to organizing the Atlas project and revising the Checklist. Five people have volunteered to serve as regional coordinators for the Atlas project. The coordinators will organize local efforts for making species lists for the 174 blocks in Oregon. We have gathered 390 species lists from around Oregon, most of which are suitable for entry into the Atlas database. We have also agreed to share noxious weed locality data with the Oregon Department of Agriculture noxious weed program.

The Checklist now has 4,391 accepted names and 1,177 synonyms. Recently, we have been adding as many names (mostly synonyms) to the list as possible to improve links between the Checklist and Atlas databases. Treatments of *Salix* (willow), *Astragalus* (milk vetch), and several other genera have been submitted, and hundreds of housekeeping changes have been entered in the Checklist database.

Thanks!

Thanks to the following people, who are among the many people who have helped the Oregon Flora Project during the past three months.

To be added to our mailing list (if not already on it):

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Would you like to make a donation?

Tax-deductable donations can be made to the Oregon Flora Project by sending a check made out to the Oregon State University Foundation to Scott Sundberg at the address on page 18. Please note on the check that it is for the Oregon Flora Project. Your donations mostly go toward newsletter expenses and student wages.

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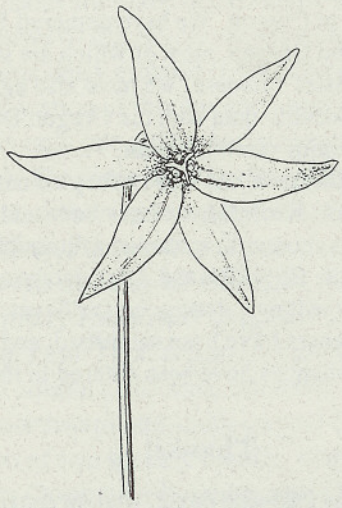
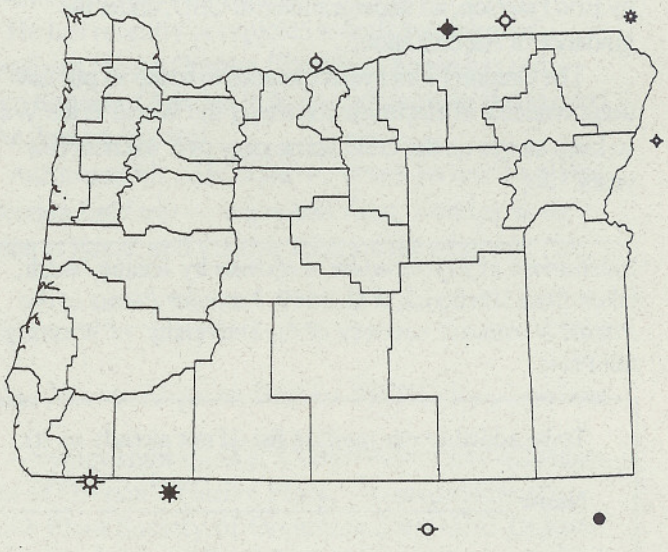


Did you know?

- The Lane County Checklist Group has been busy locating and documenting plant occurrences in Lane County; compiling a checklist of vascular plant species; and assembling maps and plant lists in preparation for an active 1996 field season. Several interesting new plant localities have been found this year.
- The *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* dictates the rules for naming plants. There are different rules for naming animals. One difference between the two is that the species name for an animal can be the same as the genus name (e.g., *Gallinago gallinago*, the common snipe), but this is not allowed for plants.
- Bruce Barnes has written computerized keys to the plants of the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. These are multi-entry keys, in which plants can be identified by entering characters in any order, unlike standard dichotomous keys, which require that characters be evaluated in a defined sequence.



"Near Misses"

Please report if found in Oregon.

- *Allium scilloides*
- *Bryonia alba*
- *Helianthus maximiliani*
- *Lomatium salmoniflorum*
- *Mentzelia torreyi*
- *Mirabilis greenei*
- *Nothocalais nigrescens*
- *Rudbeckia californica* var. *interior*
- *Tetradymia tetrameres*