

The Anemones or Wind-flowers of Saskatchewan

Arch C. Budd

In our Province we have four species of Anemone, three of which are quite plentiful and one very rare. Anemones, which belong to the Buttercup family, (Ranunculaceae), generally have five petal-like, coloured sepals but no true petals. They also have numerous stamens and pistils, and the fruit is a cylindrical or a globular head with many small single-seeded achenes. Part way up the flowering stalks is a whorl of bracts which generally resemble small leaves. The true leaves are deeply palmately dissected or divided and are all basal and long stalked.



The commonest species, the Canada Anemone (A. canadensis L.) has white flowers from 1 to 1 and a quarter inches in diameter and is found throughout the entire Province, even on open prairie, where it shelters in the edge of snowberry clumps or in buffalo wallows and coulees, generally in large masses.

The Long-fruited Anemone (A. cylindrica A. Gray) has greenish-white flowers about one-half to three-quarter inch across and the fruiting head is long, cylindrical and very woolly. This species is fairly common in moist situations throughout most of the Province.

Saskatchewan's only pink anemone is the Cut-leaved Anemone, (A. multifida Poir. var. hudsoniana DC.) or (A. globosa Nutt) which generally bears purplish-red flowers from one-half to five-eighths of an inch across. Occasionally specimens are found with flowers yellowish-green in colour. The fruiting heads are very woolly and are globular in shape. This species is fairly common in moist spots throughout the prairie.

The Tall Anemone (A. virginiana L.) grows from 2 to 3 feet in height (the other species being generally from 1 to 2 feet) and bears greenish-white flowers about three-quarter of an inch across. This rare species was found near Yorkton by our late president, Mrs. I.M. Priestly, but has not apparently been otherwise recorded for the Province.

The following key may aid in distinguishing the Anemones.

1. Fruiting heads not densely woolly. A. canadensis.
- Fruiting heads densely woolly. 2.
2. Flowers reddish-purple; fruiting heads globular. A. multifida.
- Flowers greenish-white; fruiting heads oblong or cylindrical. 3.
3. Fruiting heads elongated and cylindrical; plants from 6 to 20 inches in height. A. cylindrica.
- Fruiting heads rounded or oblong; plants tall, from 24 to 36 inches high. A. virginiana.

Our Crocus-Anemone differs from the true Anemones by bearing a long, persistent, feathery or plumose style attached to each achene, but was at one time classified as an Anemone. The common name of Windflower arises from the

ease with which the sepals of Anemones are blown off by the wind. The Greek mythology tells us of a beautiful nymph, Anemone, who was loved by the god of the west wind, Zephyrus, and was turned, by the jealous goddess Flora into a flower which thus bears her name.

In Lieu of Flowers

Iris Tickner

As a substitute for flowers, once the fall comes, leaves, especially the copper beech variety, can be preserved and kept for months. They should be picked when they begin to change color and dipped in crude glycerine. Then they are laid away for a few weeks in a dry, dark place and when brought out once more, they are glossy and bright and will retain their freshness throughout the winter months. My mother used to lay them under the carpet after they had been dipped, and it was always a pleasant surprise to me to see them emerge none the worse for their period of flattening. This also is the time of the year to gather weeds, bulrushes, etc., and paint them for winter bouquets.

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FOSSILS

While digging a basement, this summer, Carl Runyan, of Punnichy, found a stone containing the fossilized remains of a large worm, together with the impressions of two tiny shell-like objects in the shape of fans. This rock splits easily into layers. It would found five feet below the surface. He would like some information as to what these objects are.

Only a geological expert could tell what types of marine life these were, and how many million years ago they were deposited on the ancient ocean floor which at one time covered what is now the prairies of Saskatchewan.

When today, we dig down into the old ocean bed we may find many buried evidences of former life. If we could collect enough of these fossils and be able to read the story that is hidden with them, we would be in possession of a record of the ages and a knowledge of the world's ancient past.

Probably the most common fossils are like those you have found; the fossils of snails, clams and other animals, the bodies of which were covered with shells or protected by other hard coverings. These fossils were formed as follows: as the plant and animal bodies decayed, mineral matter from the water was deposited in their tissues. The mineral matter which thus was slowly deposited took the form of the plant or animal parts it replaced. Sometimes the deposited minerals took the places of even the softer structures, thus preserving the entire bodies of plants and animals.