

for this species nowadays. (This is the Ragweed which is held responsible for much of the hay-fever in Eastern Canada. It is abundant in the Red River Valley in Manitoba and is extending westward mostly along the railways. I have yet to find one of these plants growing in Sask. ED.)

Cuscuta curta (Dodder). I found a very interesting area on the Antler Creek near Carnduff and found this species of Dodder. In the same place I located some Western False Crowfoot (Onosmodium occidentale) which is a new Saskatchewan record, I think. There also I found what I think is Nepeta cataria (Catnip).

At Skull Creek near Sidewood I found a clump of Sisymbrium Loesellii. (Loessel's Mustard) and incidentally found it very common at Kamloops, B.C. and in eastern Manitoba. (This plant is quite common in the Edenwold district, north east of Regina, ED.)

Some Saskatchewan Pentstemons or Beard-tongues.

The Beard-tongues or Pentstemons are an interesting and attractive genus, but have suffered somewhat at the hands of the plant taxonomists. Some omit the first "t" and call them Penstemons, some use Pentastemons, but the generally accepted name is Pentstemon. They are distinguished by their opposite leaves, funnel-form or campanulate flowers and by their fifth, sterile stamen which bears no anther and is generally bearded along one side. We, in southern Saskatchewan, have four common and one rare species, the White Beard-tongue or P. albidus; the Lilac-flowered Beard-tongue, P. gracilis; the Smooth Blue Beard-tongue, P. nitidus; the Slender Beard-tongue, P. procerus; and the rare Yellow Beard-tongue, P. confertus.

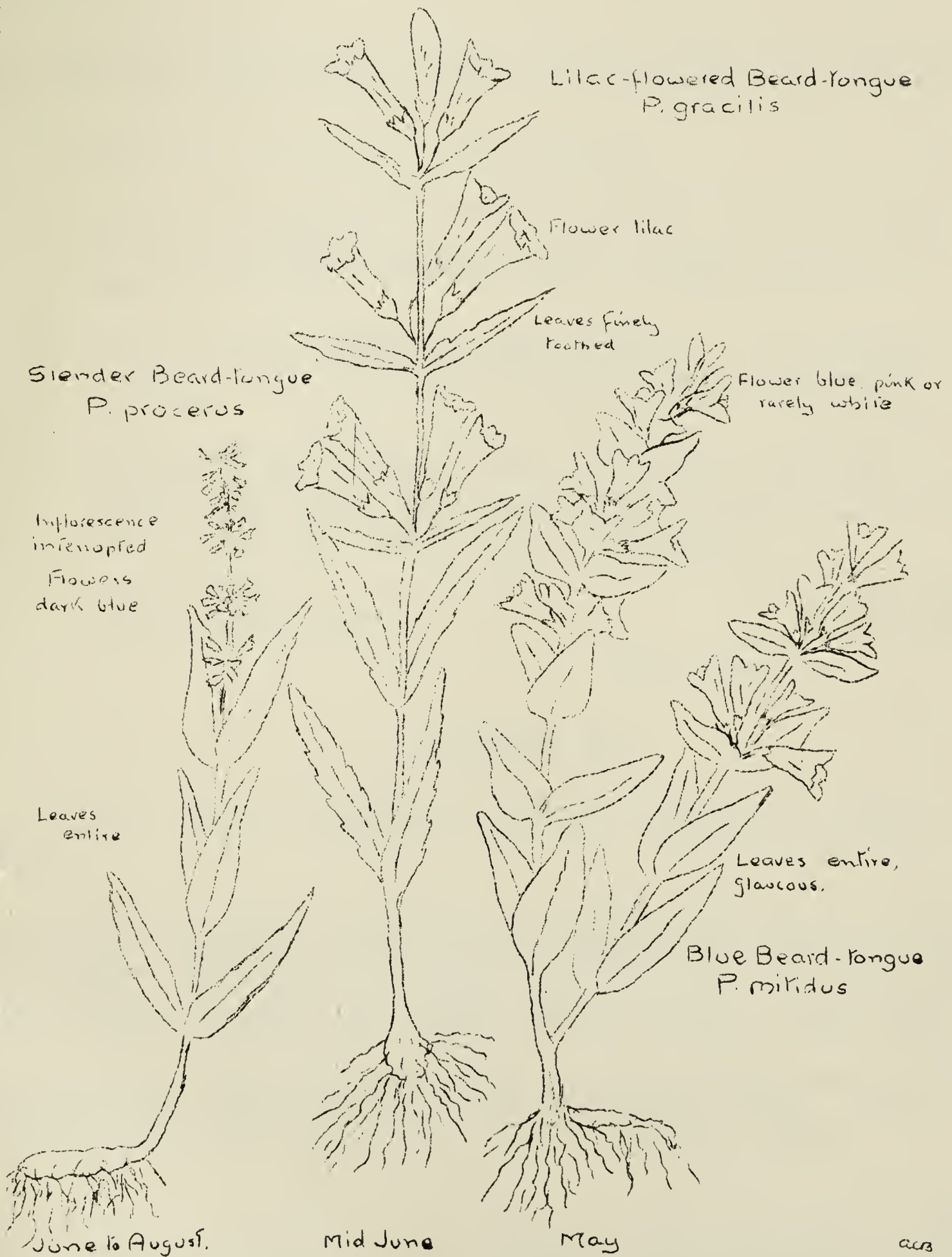
Our common species generally come into flower in the same regular order, first P. nitidus, from May 9 to May 26 (average date May 19); then P. albidus, from May 17 to June 22 (average June 5); next P. procerus, from May 27 to June 15 (average June 6); and later P. gracilis, from June 17 to June 25 (average June 20); the flowering dates of the earlier species being dependent on the earliness or lateness of the spring.

White Beard-tongue is a white-flowered species growing from 6 to 10 inches in height with a downy haired stem and oblanceolate, finely hairy leaves. The inflorescence is hairy and sticky and the plants grow in dry, exposed situations, sidehills, etc.

Smooth Blue Beard-tongue is the earliest flowering species and has smooth, bluish-green, glaucous leaves, the uppermost ones short and broadly ovate. The flowers are generally deep blue but range through many shades. I have a mount of this species with plants ranging from dark blue, through all shades of purple, red, pink to white, all gathered in an area about ten yards across on a side-hill near Eastend. It grows on steep sidehills, especially on dry, eroded slopes.

Slender Beard-tongue is a slender-stemmed species which generally grows in large colonies in the moister spots of the prairie, around non-saline sloughs, in the shelter of clumps of snow-berry, the sheltered side of coulees, etc. The deep blue flowers are borne in an interrupted spike and are quite small, but very striking when the plants are massed.

THREE COMMON SASKATCHEWAN PENTSTEMONS,



The Lilac-flowered Beard-tongue is a taller, slender plant, found as a rule as single plants and not in clumps, on moist prairie, and slough margins. The flowers are narrow and almost cylindrical, of a pale purple or lilac colour.

The Yellow Beard-tongue is somewhat like the Slender Beard-tongue, but is a larger plant and has yellow flowers. It is a plant of the Foothills but has been found at Swift Current.

A simple key to identify our Pentstemon is:-

1. Corolla tube distinctly funnel-form, the tube widening decidedly towards the throat. 2.
Corolla tube almost cylindrical and only slightly widening towards the throat. 3.
2. Plants without hairiness on stems or leaves. P. nitidus
Plants with some hairiness on stems and leaves; inflorescence glandular. P. nitidus
3. Flowers from 5/8 to 3/4 inch long; inflorescence open; calyx and inflorescence glandular. P. gracilis.
Flowers about 3/8 inch long; inflorescence interrupted but generally in dense clusters; calyx not glandular. 4.
4. Flowers yellow. P. confertus.
Flowers purple or blue. P. procerus.

Arch. C. Budd.

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