



Arch. C. Bodd.  
YELLOW  
MONKEY  
FLOWER  
AND  
CANADIAN  
WATER-WEED

# They Went to England, Liked it, so Stayed

ARCH. C. BUDD, Swift Current

In some of the slowly moving streams in the Souris River area of South-eastern Saskatchewan, the Canadian Water-weed or Water-thyme may be found. This entirely aquatic plant has long branching stems with leaves about a quarter to half an inch long, less than an eighth of an inch wide, and borne in whorls of threes or rarely fours. These plants are dioecious, that is the male and female flowers are on different plants, but they increase vegetatively and any piece of stem bearing a whorl of leaves will grow very rapidly. Botanists call it *Anacharis canadensis*, *Elodea canadensis* or *Philotria canadensis*, just take your choice, but I like to call it *Anacharis* as I did when a boy.

In the early 1850's it is said that a piece of Canadian Water-weed fell into the Thames in England from the Botanical Gardens at Oxford and that by 1866 it had so increased that some parts of the river were almost unnavigable. Other reports say it was first noticed about 1842 and was called "Babington's Curse" after the man who was wrongly supposed to have first brought it in to England. Although only the pistillate or female plant is found over there, thus necessitating its spread entirely vegetatively, nevertheless

before I left England in 1910 many canals and small streams were entirely choked with the weed. Many water-mills had their mill-ponds so choked that they were unable to function, and it was the chief aquatic plant in most small ponds. *Anacharis* makes a splendid oxygenating plant in our aquariums and is apparently a good food plant for our aquatic life as well as for ducks and swans, but it was an expensive weed for Britain.

Growing in water, on the banks of running streams and along the lake shores of the Cypress Hills, we find a lovely, showy plant called the Yellow Monkey Flower, *Mimulus guttatus*. It has round to lanceolate, much toothed, opposite leaves and grows from six to eighteen inches high and bears conspicuous flowers from one to one and one-half inches long, of the snapdragon type, bright yellow with reddish spots near the centre. This handsome plant was first cultivated in England in most flower gardens but found climatic conditions agreeable and escaped into the streams and rivers. This fairly recent addition to the British flora, although very common now, is hardly likely to become such a nuisance as the Canadian Water-weed.

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## Familiar Wild Flowers

By B. DeVRIES, Fort Qu'Appelle

Dear Fellow Naturalists:

We are citizens of the comparatively young province of Saskatchewan which in its vast expanse harbours still an abundant wealth of native Flora and Fauna threatened by the steady advance of Civilization. This advance is necessary for the growth of our province, but destructive in its way. Many wild plants face partial or even total destruction. Therefore, I thought it might be worth while to write four quarterly articles about our best known wild flowers. As subjects I have chosen: Crocus Anemone; Western Red Lily; Rose; Goldenrod.

These flowers seem to me the most striking. I hope these articles will give us a deeper understanding of our native plants botanically, and that they will show us the importance of protecting them. Once we have become more familiar with these plants through written articles, slides or films, we can help to ensure their protection by establishing Wild Flower Sanctuaries. The Regina Natural History Society already possesses one called "Hidden Valley" near Craven, Saskatchewan. It is badly neglected, but restorable (Members, what about this?). There are also a few privately-owned sanc-