



Photo by L. T. Carmichael
Tuberous-rooted Sunflower, *Helianthus subtuberosus*

Eremopoa Persica (Trin.) Rosh. in Manitoba

By GEORGE A. STEVENSON.

Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon, Manitoba

About the middle of July 1955, while crossing the C.N.R. freight yards in Brandon I noticed a small annual grass about five or six inches high with which I was not familiar. A number of specimens were collected and in November duplicates were sent to the Division of Botany, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for identification. Dr. W. G. Dore, the first botanist to examine the grass, identified it as *Eremopoa persica* (Trin.) Roshev. and this determination was confirmed later by Dr. N. L. Bor, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, who is familiar with the genus. Dr. J. R. Swallen, United States National Herbarium, also examined a few specimens of the original collection—Stevenson 945—and stated in a letter to Dr. Dore in December that it had not yet arrived in the United States. The Brandon collection therefore appears to be the first record of *Eremopoa persica* growing spontaneously on the North American continent.

The station was visited again on the 15th of June, 1956. The main patch covered an area of about half an acre and was located at the west end of the Canadian National freight yards in Brandon. The heaviest concentration of plants was close to the junction of 8th Street and McTavish Avenue, or roughly about the center of the infested area. The eastern edge of the patch was fairly well defined but occasional plants were found along the roadbed leading to the CN station, a distance of about 800 yards in a north-westerly direction. In the south plants were scattered along spur tracks and around coal sheds which are quite common in the district. Plants appeared to be confined more or less to ballast and coal-impregnated soil, but I would like to confirm this observation by closer and more detailed study during the season of 1957 when I hope the time will permit me to make a more thorough investigation.

Eremopoe persica is a weak annual

grass native to the countries of the Near and Middle East (Asiatic Turkey and Syria to the Caucasus and Northwest India), where it is found in sandy soils and occasionally in cultivated fields and gardens. It has been introduced to several Western European countries and has been collected on port and inland rubbish dumps in the British Isles. Dr. G. Taylor, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, suggests that it might be worth while searching for it in those parts of Canada where *Polium persicum* is a bad weed, since these two grasses might have a common origin. It may have been introduced in packing or in Russian or Persian wheats or the seed of other

crop plants, or it may have escaped from the experimental plots of certain institutions where it has been used in cytological investigations. When it became established at Brandon is not known—how many years ago would be only a wild guess—and where it came from is still a mystery.

Specimens have been deposited with the DAO Herbarium; the National Herbarium, National Museum of Canada, and the University of Manitoba. A number of specimens are preserved at Brandon and it is hoped that at least some of these will be available to those interested throughout 1957.

SUMMER MEETING — CYPRESS HILLS June 15 and 16, 1957

The Saskatchewan Natural History Society invites members and friends to meet this year at the Provincial Park in the beautiful Cypress Hills. Field trips are being planned for two days. Mid-June may still be cool in the high altitudes of the Cypress Hills . . . bring warm clothing.

RATES AND FACILITIES: Lodge rooms (1 bed)—1 person, \$2.00; 2 persons, \$3.00.

Cabins (L.H.K.), Non-modern—2-3 persons, \$3.50; 4-6 persons, \$4.50. Modern—4 persons, \$6.50-\$8.00; 4-6 persons, \$8.00-\$9.00.

Meals served in Chalet. RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE EARLY. Write—

F. G. Walker, Manager, Cypress Hills Prov. Park, Maple Creek, Sask. Please mention the Society when making reservations.

Still More Interesting Cypress Hills Plants

By ARCH C. BUDD, Swift Current

In this issue we can consider two more plant species for which the only Saskatchewan locale is the Cypress Hills. Both of these are Cordilleran mountain species and are found in the eastern Rockies. The Rhomboid-leaved Saxifrage (*Saxifraga rhomboidea* Greene) is quite rare and is found on exposed grassland at an altitude of over 4,000 feet. It generally grows to a height of from 5 to 8 inches and bears a cluster of basal, fleshy, rather thick, dark-green leaves, usually from 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches long. The leaves are ovate, rounded at the apex and somewhat bluntly toothed and the blades are generally contracted to an almost truncate base and then are decurrent, continue down the stalk. A

glandular-hairy scape or stem from 4 to 12 inches high, arising from the rootcrown, bears the inflorescence. The flowers are white, about 3/16 of an inch in diameter, arranged in a compound cyme or several cymules, each with a small bract below. The fruits are small follicles which open with spreading tips to release the seeds. This species is also called *Micranthes rhomboidea* (Greene) Small and has also been placed by some authorities as *Saxifraga nivalis* L. the European Alpine Saxifrage. It is found throughout the Rocky Mountains from southern Alberta to Arizona.

The second plant is the White Hawkweed (*Hieracium albiflorum* Hook.), a member of the Liguliflorae