

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ 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, continuing 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 $\frac{3}{16}$ 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

or Chicory sub-family. It grows from one to two feet in height and bears a rosette of spatulate-shaped basal leaves, each from 2 to 5 inches long, with fine scattered hairiness and of a pale green colour. The stems bear a few to several stemless leaves, reduced in size and less hairy than the stalked basal leaves. The flowers, which are in an open, branched corymb at the head of the stem, are about half an inch across with white or very pale cream-coloured ligulate florets, and very narrow involucral

bracts. The seeds bear a sordid or dirty-white pappus. This plant is fairly plentiful in openings in the pine forest and along the forest pathways of the Cypress Hills, but is not found again until the eastern foothills of the Rockies.

There are three other plants peculiar, in Saskatchewan, to the Cypress Hills. These are Spring Beauty, (January-March 1953), Wild White Geranium, (April-June 1949), and Yellow Monkey-flower, (Mar. 1956)

