

New Plant Records for Saskatchewan

by John H. Hudson, Saskatoon

While in the Cypress Hills in 1961 I had the good fortune to turn up three plants little reported for Saskatchewan.

Lilaea scillioides (Poir.) Haum. Flowering Quillwort. Collected as #2096, in a dry pot-hole in the bed of a creek tributary to Davis Creek, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 32-7-XXV W3rd, July 5, 1961. This small plant, 3-4 inches high, appearing as a tufted bunch of hollow quill-like leaves, has the air of *Eleocharis palustris* dying of drought. The epithet "flowering," although biologically true, would seem over-enthusiastic to a casual observer for the flowers are green and inconspicuous. More noteworthy is the fact that the achenes are of two different sorts; winged ones on a spike on a scape atop the plant, wingless ones among the leaf bases. This plant occurs in southeastern Alberta (Moss, 1959), in the Alberta Cypress Hills southeast of Elkwater (Breitung, 1954), but I have not heard of reports from Saskatchewan.

Polygonum confertiflorum Nutt. (*P. watsonii* Small). No common name. Collected as #2097 on July 5, 1961, with *Lilaea scillioides* but much commoner and more widespread. It occurs in dried-up creek beds, N $\frac{1}{2}$ 28, all 32 and S $\frac{1}{2}$ 33 of 7-XXV W3rd. This tiny knotweed is about two inches high. It differs from ordinary knotweeds like *P. aviculare* in its strict erect habit, its closely set linear leaves, and its inflorescence restricted to leafy spikes at the ends of the stems. In blossom the sepals have white edgings, which make the flowers, if not showy, at least visible. Although Moss (1959) reports this plant for moist places, southern Alberta, there is only Macoun's old record for dry gravelly prairie in the Cypress Hills for Saskatchewan (Breitung, 1954).

Populus angustifolia James Narrow-leaf Cottonwood. Collected July 8, 1961, as #2101 in valley of Fairwell Creek at road crossing, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 15-7-XXIV W3rd. It favors wet spots. This rare tree is narrow for its height, like the Lombardy poplars cultivated in British Columbia lower mainland and in western Washington. The trees I saw were only about 20 feet high and with trunk diameter of about three inches at breast height. The

species is well known for southern Alberta (Moss, 1959, and many previous authors) and it has been accredited to southwestern Saskatchewan on the basis of an old Macoun report from the Frenchman River. After a thorough study of herbarium specimens Breitung (1957) concluded that *Populus angustifolia* does not occur in Saskatchewan and that Macoun was mistaken in his localities. The present collection seems to show that Macoun was right. This species has not been collected in Saskatchewan since Macoun because the average botanist visits only the forested areas of the Cypress Hills and the Fort Walsh district. Macoun, however, according to his autobiography (1922), traversed the main bench of the Cypress Hills longitudinally from east to west in 1880; hence he would be in favourable country to collect this tree.

LITERATURE CITED

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FIRST REPORT of *Lotus corniculatus* in SASKATCHEWAN

by G. F. Ledingham, Regina

On July 16, 1962, Miss Elizabeth Wagner, a seven-year-old Regina schoolgirl with a keen interest in plants, showed me some bright yellow flowers of Birdsfoot Trefoil and told me that it grew along the edge of the road not far from her home. The next day she showed me the spot and I collected specimens as vouchers for this first report of *Lotus corniculatus* L. in Saskatchewan.

The identification of this plant was confirmed by Dr. W. F. Grant, McGill University, who is doing research work on this genus. Dr. Grant says that *Lotus corniculatus*, a European species, was introduced into New York State for forage and that it is now being cultivated in Ontario and Quebec. It has been found as an escape in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia so it is rapidly getting around.