

## TALL WORMSEED MUSTARD, *ERYSIMUM HIERACIIFOLIUM* L. IN SASKATCHEWAN

by F. H. Montgomery\*, Guelph, Ontario

C. Frankton (1954. A new weed, *Erysimum hieraciifolium* L. in Canada. *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, 68: 27-28.) reported that Tall Wormseed Mustard was first collected in 1941 near the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa. Later it was found in many counties in Quebec and eastern Ontario and it has been found by the writer as far west as Perth County in central Ontario where it is locally abundant. No records have been seen of its occurrence west of Ontario.

Last summer, travelling from Morden, Manitoba, westward on number 3 highway I saw plants which I suspected might be this weed. The plants were small and without flowers and no collections were made. Two days later similar plants were observed east of Moose Jaw near the number 1

by-pass east of the city. Again because of the lack of prominent identifying characters no collections were made. However, on the return trip, July 9 (1964) I found mature plants in bloom along the right-of-way of number 13 highway a few miles west of Stoughton, Saskatchewan. Herbarium specimens were collected and the identification verified at the Plant Research Institute, Ottawa. Although this is possibly a new record for the western distribution of the weed, the writer is of the opinion that it may not be a recent introduction.

The plants are biennial or perennial and up to six feet tall, much taller than the Common Wormseed Mustard. The leaves are larger than those of the latter species and the flowers are larger and a deep yellow. The flower pedicels are short and not as spreading as in the Common Wormseed Mustard. The siliques are longer, thicker and closely appressed to the stem.

Tall Wormseed Mustard prefers sandy and gravelly soils and is frequently found in clover fields, seeded pastures and incidentally along roadsides. It produces enormous numbers of seeds and could easily become as common a weed as the Common Wormseed Mustard.

\*Dr. Montgomery is with the Department of Botany, Ontario Agricultural College. He is the author of a recent book on weeds which is reviewed on page 104.

### SNHS SUMMER MEETING, 1965

The Annual Summer Meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society will be held at Candle Lake in the coniferous forest of northern Saskatchewan from June 11 to June 13. Members and friends of the Society are urged to come up that weekend to visit this lovely country. A programme of field trips and social get-togethers is being arranged by the Prince Albert Natural History Society. Our past experience with a meeting arranged by this local society leads us to expect another memorable outing. For details about accommodations and registration see the March *Blue Jay* or telephone J. Ross Homer, Summer Meet Committee, 251 - 21st St. East, Prince Albert.



Ontario Dept. of Agriculture  
Tall Wormseed Mustard