

Vanessa atalanta L. Churchill.
Vanessa cardui L. Gillam, Churchill.
Limenitis arthemis Dru. Mile 200.
Limenitis arthemis var *rubrofasciata*
 B. & McDd. Mile 200.
Limenitis archippus Cram. Mile 200.
Lycaena dorcas Kby. Mile 200.
Everes amyntula Bdv. Mile 200, Gil-
 lam, Churchill.
Plebeius scudderii Edw. Mile 200.
Plebeius aquilo Bdv. Churchill.
Glaucopsyche lygdamus var *couperi*
 Grt. Churchill. Very common.
Pyrgus centaureae Ramb. Gillam,
 Churchill.

"It is interesting how some of our common southern forms work North. The Pas is just below Lat. 54 and Churchill just under 59. The railroad is 510 miles long and goes in a N.E. direction to Kettle Rapids crossing over the Nelson River; thence it is nearly straight North. Churchill town is surrounded for about 4 miles by tundra, after that the country is covered by bush and small timber, spruce and larch, with willow."

"The butterflies were named by Dr. McDunnough."

"*B. frigga* v *gibsoni* is, so far as I can tell, identical with *saga*. Dr. W. T. M. Forbes has told Austin H. Clark that he has received specimens of *P. machaon hudsonianus* from Churchill.

I did not see it in my two trips, nor can I learn of it being taken there."

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A few notations, to update to current taxonomic concepts in Lepidoptera, would seem to be required: The species placed by Brooks in *Brenthis* are now placed in *Boloria*; the species *aphirape* is now considered as being *eunomia*; the specimens that Brooks placed as *chariclea* are undoubtedly *titania*, although *chariclea* is also reported from Churchill. The designation of "var" by Brooks is undoubtedly a shortened form of variety; he used it, however, for taxons usually considered as subspecific.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Robert W. Nero and H. Harvey Beck, formerly of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, for allowing me access to the Museum's collections and the Brooks correspondence files, without which this study would have been impossible.

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OF ERAGROSTIS AND RANGE EXTENSIONS; 1970 BOTANICAL REMARKS

by J. H. Hudson, 103 Richmond Crescent, Saskatoon

In the summer of 1970, for the first time since 1965, I had the good fortune to collect a plant new to Saskatchewan. It is *Eragrostis poaeoides* Beauv., a native of Europe. Boivin (1967) reported it from no further west than Ontario.

It was collected, as J. H. Hudson #2680, in the C.N.R. downtown yards, west from about the 500 block 1st Avenue, amid railway spurs on soil made largely of cinders plus gravel, on July 29, 1970. Some account of

how I came to find it may be of interest. A few days earlier Mr. J. Greaves of Saskatoon had brought me for identification a flowering stem of *Echium vulgare*, a European Borage Family weed with a long spike of large deep blue flowers. This has previously shown up in Saskatchewan but plainly is not persistent. As I remembered what he had said of its habitat, it had come from a lot used for parking machinery somewhere near his place of employment on First Avenue. Only

two plants had been seen. I went to the area and searched up and down railroad spurs for the *Echium*. I found none, but instead was repaid by finding several healthy colonies of a grass I did not know, which came out to be *Eragrostis poaeoides*.

The grass genus *Eragrostis* includes in Western Canada only three species of very rare weeds. It is in the tribe *Festuceae* and thus has several to many fertile florets above the two empty glumes. From other genera in *Festuceae* it may be told by the lemmas having only three nerves and these prominent under magnification; the spikelets are wholly glabrous (hairless) and have many flowers per spikelet.

Eragrostis poaeoides is separable from most of its genus by having wart-like glands on the lemmas and glumes; from the very similar *E. cilianensis* it may be told most easily by floral size as follows:

E. poaeoides — spikelets under 2 mm wide; lemmas, 10 to 20, and under 2 mm long.

E. cilianensis — spikelets over 2.5 mm wide; lemmas, 10 to 40, and over 2 mm long.

In life *Eragrostis poaeoides* is an undistinguished grass, looking like stunted *Setaria viridis* (Green Foxtail) from its flat wide leaves, but with a paniculate inflorescence vaguely suggestive of *Puccinellia nuttalliana* (Salt Meadow Grass).

Evidently there is still enough railway traffic to transmit new introduced weeds about.

Oddly enough, the *Eragrostis cilianensis* (All.) E. Mosher, mentioned in the foregoing, which was first collected in Saskatchewan at Estevan by me and reported in 1961, was found by me at Medicine Hat in 1970. The collection, Hudson #2700, October 19, 1970, came off the railroad spur just west of the Medicine Hat Brick and Tile Company's sewer pipe plant. Railroads again, it will be noted; it must be rod-riding westward, as Boivin (1967) gave the distribution as: Nova Scotia, Quebec to southeast

Saskatchewan. Moss (1959) did not mention it for Alberta.

This *Eragrostis cilianensis*, an annual with several to many spreading-ascending culms 6 to 12 inches long, may be told from all other grasses one is likely to see hereabouts by the inordinate number of lemmas (flowers) per spikelet, of the order of 20 to 40.

Although not a record, it may be of interest to mention that I found *Lilaea scilllioides* (Poir.) Haum. again this summer, in the southern Dirt Hills south of Spring Valley. This was Hudson #2665, on muddy shore of small slough amid morainic hills, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 35-10-XXVIW2nd, altitude about 2700'. I had reported it as new to Saskatchewan on the strength of a Cypress Hills collection in 1961 (Hudson, 1962) but it turns out that Boivin and Dore first collected it in Saskatchewan in 1951 at Trossachs (B. Boivin, letter; also specimen in Fraser Herbarium).

Other interesting specimens which I found last summer were:

#2655, June 12, 1970, *Polygala paucifolia* Willd. Small marl fen, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 27-45-IW3rd (MacDowall area). A small plant with relatively large pink flowers. Reported by Breitung (1957) from further north.

#2658, June 12, 1970; #2668, July 16, 1970. *Valeriana dioica* L. var. *sylvatica* (Richards) Wats. Moist brushy soil at edge of McFarlane Creek, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-45-IW3rd (MacDowall area). Many reports in Breitung from further north. I had never seen it before in 18 years of looking in the wrong places.

#2670, July 16, 1970, *Scirpus hudsonianus* (Michx.) Fern. Marly bog of the bog-birch and small tamarack kind, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 27-45-IW3rd. Reported by Breitung, under the name *Eriophorum alpinum* L., from much further north. Here it was growing with *Scirpus cespitosus* L. var. *callosus* Bigel., another northern species reported by Breitung south as far as Prince Albert; but I had collected the latter hereabouts the year before on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-45-IW3rd.

#2676, July 24, 1970, *Carex crawei* Dewey. Moist mossy calcareous fen, W. edge NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 17-36-IIIW3rd (north of Floral). Reported in Breitung from Oxbow, based on a 1955 collection of mine. Since then Dr. G. F. Ledingham and I have found it here and there in southern Saskatchewan in marl bogs and seepages, but never so far north. As the standard eastern floras give its range west to Alberta in Canada, there must be old Saskatchewan collections not known to Fraser and Russell (1944) buried in eastern herbaria.

#2682, August 3, 1970, *Marsilea mucronata* A. Br. Wet mudflats in *Gratiola* zone of intermittently tilled slough bottom NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30-32-VIIIW3rd (Donavon). This habitat, although further north, agrees with that in Breitung, which is taken from the report in Fraser and Russell (1944) which summarizes material in the Fraser Herbarium. I had not seen this little fern like a four-leaved clover in a slough bottom before. I had been used to finding it in dry creek beds in areas of shallow or no glacial drift in southernmost Saskatchewan.

#2687 August 16, 1970 *Suckleya suckleyana* (Torr.) Rydb. Dry clay mudflats in field pothole, NW cor. L.S.D. 5 in 10-30-XIVW3rd, Rosetown area. Not reported from so far north in Breitung. The material is the flowering-seedling form mentioned by Harrington (1964) in Colorado, with a pair of large oblong cotyledons and a few rounded foliage leaves, but with flowers and fruit forming amid the leaf-bases.

#2697, October 2, 1970, *Sonchus oleraceus* L. in shady moist waste ground at foot of Broadway bridge. Although Breitung and Fraser & Russell state this to be frequent in gardens, Boivin (1967) omitted Saskatchewan from its distribution in Canada, and in the Fraser Herbarium there is of wild material from Saskatchewan only a 1917 collection of T. N. Willing. So it may justly be taken as rare. The common annual sowthistle is *S. asper* (L.) Hill, with leaves normally merely serrate; from this *S. oleraceus* may be told at a glance by having runcinate-pinnatifid leaves, the terminal division the largest, much as in *Lactuca biennis* or many of the mustards.

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Editor's Note: Those with literary inclinations might be interested to know that John Hudson titled his article "Of *Eragrostis* and Range Extensions" with a chapter heading in mind from Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* — "Of Herbs and Stewed Rabbits."

GARDENS OF THE SKY

by **Al Grass**, 5666 Rumble Street, Burnaby, B.C.

Each year many thousands of visitors come to Manning Park (located about 140 miles east of Vancouver on the Trans-Canada highway) to see the dazzling display of colour in the alpine meadows. Reds, yellows, and blues splash themselves about with gay abandon to form one of nature's grand

spectacles. Scientist and poet alike can find inspiration in the rocky peaks and rolling meadows where millions of wildflowers make their homes.

Dynamic, that's the high country for every living creature is in a race for time. Snow stays until late June at these heights (6000 feet and over)