

# FURTHER NOTES ON THE VASCULAR FLORA OF THE HASBALA LAKE REGION, SASKATCHEWAN

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The purpose of this paper is to document (1) the addition of 18 taxa to the vascular flora of the Hasbala Lake region in northeastern Saskatchewan, (2) the range extensions of four taxa, and (3) the addition of one taxon to the flora of Saskatchewan.

Earlier botanical collections in the vicinity of Hasbala Lake were made by J. W. Tyrrell<sup>10</sup> and G. Scotter.<sup>7 8 9</sup> A more recent detailed study of the plant species, topography and plant communities was made by Argus.<sup>1</sup>

Our field party visited Hasbala Lake in 1973, a region lying well within the subarctic section of northeastern Saskatchewan. Our survey was designed to cover as much terrain as time allowed with the objective of discovering as many unusual plants as possible.

All specimens collected have been identified by the author, and a complete set of plants deposited in the Fort Qu'Appelle Herbarium. Except for the Monocotyledoneae, the nomenclature followed is that of Boivin.<sup>2</sup>

## FIRST RECORDS FOR THE HASBALA LAKE REGION

*Carex supina* Willd. Ssp. *spaniocarpa* (Stead.) Hult. 9085-73. Only as a pioneer on sandy gravel slope of esker. Previously collected from Warren Lake<sup>1</sup> and Lake Athabasca.<sup>5</sup>

*Eriophorum vaginatum* L. Ssp. *spissum* (Fern.) Hult. 9044-73. In wet depression on *Sphagnum* with *E. vaginatum* in *Picea mariana* muskeg. This is the first report of the subspecies for northeastern Saskatchewan. The species was previously reported by Argus.<sup>1</sup>

*Populus tremuloides* Michx. 9145-73. Known only from margin of *Carex*

meadow in a depression at base of esker as stunted individuals. shoots were vegetative. The species was previously collected at Warren Lake.<sup>1</sup>

*Betula occidentalis* Hooker var. *occidentalis*. 9036-73, 9064-73. frequent as a small tree (3-4 m) on sandy esker in *Picea mariana* — lichen association and rare on sandy shore. First recorded for Patten Lake.<sup>1</sup>

*Betula papyrifera* Marsh var. *papyrifera*. 9140-73, 9000-73. Collected from sandy slope of an esker and in *Picea mariana* — feather moss wood.

*Urtica dioica* L. var. *procera* (Muhl.) Wedd. 9127-73. Rare, known only from base of sheltered slope of esker near wet *Carex* fen under *Populus balsamifera*. A northern extension of range of this subarctic American species, previously known from Alaska in southern and central Saskatchewan.

*Rumex fennicus* Murb. 9127-73. Rare and occurring as a few individuals at margin of wet *Carex* fen near base of sheltered slope of esker. This record is a marked northward extension of this introduced European species frequently recorded in southern and central regions of Saskatchewan. The collecting site and the previous records show signs of human disturbance one time.

*Anemone multifida* Poir var. *sanguinea* (Pursh) Fern. 9096-73. Seen only once on dry lichen covered slope of dry depression between esker ridges. This is the first record of this form for northeastern Saskatchewan. The species was previously collected by Argus.<sup>1</sup>

*Ranunculus gmelinii* DC. 9076-73. Rare. Observed only once partly submerged in a shallow pool in wet *Picea mariana* muskeg.

*Ranunculus lapponicus* L. 9071-73. Rare. Known only from *Hylocomium splendens* mat in wet *Picea mariana* muskeg. Known from Patterson Lake in a similar habitat.<sup>1</sup>

*Arabis lyrata* L. 9097-73. Seen only on dry lichen covered slope of dry depression between esker ridges.

*Cardamine pratensis* L. var. *angustifolia* Hooker. 9087-73. Rare. Collected only once from the moist boulder field in association with *Parassia palustris* var. *tenuis* and *Stragalus alpinus*. A southward extension of the range of this arctic-circumpolar species.

*Geum allepicum* Jacq. 9095-73. Rare. Collected once from a grassy hummock in *Carex* meadow. A northward extension of the Saskatchewan range of this subarctic-temperate American species, previously known from south-central regions of the province.

*Viola adunca* SM. 9041-73. Seen only once as a few scattered individuals on a dried-out hummock in dry lichen covered depression with dwarf stands of *Picea mariana* between esker ridges.

*Cornus canadensis* L. var. *dutillyi* (ep.) Boivin. 9030-73. Rare in a *Picea mariana* muskeg among the species. This is the first report of the variety from northeastern Saskatchewan. The species was reported by Argus.<sup>1</sup>

*Pinguicula villosa* L. 9072-73. Rare. Seen only once on wet *Sphagnum* hummock in *Picea mariana* muskeg. An arctic-subarctic circumpolar species represented in this general region by a collection from Lake Athabasca.<sup>5</sup>

*Arnica alpina* (L.) Olin var. *unvensis* Boivin. 9148-73. Known only from exposed upper ridge of esker on mineral soil. A subarctic American species previously collected from Lake Athabasca.<sup>3</sup>

*Senecio paucifloris* Pursh. 9025-73. Seen only on the moist boulder field as rare individuals in shallow depression with *Carex scirpoidea*. Apparently new to the flora of Saskatchewan but not unexpected in view of its occurrence in northern Manitoba and Alberta.<sup>2, 4</sup> It is principally a subarctic-alpine species favouring calcareous meadows.

## SECOND RECORDS FOR THE HASBALA LAKE REGION

Two of the taxa collected were previously reported from this region by Argus as new to the flora of Saskatchewan. They are —

- 1) *Salix arctophylla* Cockerell. 9050-73, 9062-73, 9093-73. Infrequent on wet gravels of drainage way near Quillwort Lake and seen in wet *Picea mariana* muskeg. Common on the boulder field with *Vaccinium uliginosum* L. var. *uliginosum*.
- 2) *Salix reticulata*. 9066-73, 9080-73, 9098-73. Rare in *Picea mariana* mixed woods and frequently carpeting wettish open subarctic habitats in *Picea mariana* muskeg. Common on the moist boulder field.

## COMMENTS

It appears that four of the taxa which Argus recorded only for the Patterson-Warren Lakes region have now been found at Hasbala Lake and that 14 taxa collected at Hasbala Lake were not recorded by Argus for the Patterson-Hasbala Lakes.

Argus recorded 12 taxa for Hasbala Lake as belonging to the arctic-subarctic element (18 for the region as a whole).<sup>1</sup> In addition, four of the taxa reported in this paper bring the revised total of 16 for Hasbala Lake (18 for the region). This element comprises 8.1% of the overall total for Hasbala Lake, compared to 8.3% for the region as a whole.

The presence of a significant arctic-subarctic element in the flora of northeastern Saskatchewan is not surprising, since the study area is part of

the northwestern transitional section of Rowe<sup>6</sup> with close proximity of open subarctic woodlands with mixed forest-tundra vegetation.

## SUMMARY

Fourteen taxa are added to the vascular flora of the Patterson-Hasbala Lakes region in northeastern Saskatchewan, thereby raising the total to 127. Eighteen taxa, including two subspecies, five varieties and one form, are added to Hasbala Lake, thus making a total of 197. One species is reported as new to Saskatchewan.

A reinterpretation of the vascular flora of Hasbala Lake reveals that 16, or 8.1% (18, or 8.3% for Patterson-Hasbala Lakes) of the taxa belong to the arctic-subarctic element.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is indebted to his field companion Ron Hooper, field entomologist for the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History and Mr. William Richards, Regional Field Supervisor, Department of Northern Saskatchewan, La Ronge, for their kind cooperation and assistance, without which this investigation would not have been possible.

<sup>1</sup>ARGUS, G. W. 1966. Botanical investigations in northeastern Saskatchewan: the subarctic Patterson-Hasbala Lakes region. *Canadian Field Naturalist*, 80: 119-143.

<sup>2</sup>BOIVIN, B. 1967. Flora of the Prairie Pro-

vinces, a handbook to the flora of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Parts I, II, III. *Provancheria Memoires de l'Herbier Louis Marie Faculte d'Agriculture, Universite Laval, and Department of Agriculture Ottawa.*

<sup>3</sup>BREITUNG, A. J. 1957. Annotated catalogue of the vascular flora of Saskatchewan. *American Midland Naturalist* 58: 1-72.

<sup>4</sup>MOSS, E. H. 1959. *Flora of Alberta*. University of Toronto Press, 546 pp.

<sup>5</sup>RAUP, H. 1936. Phytogeographic studies in the Athabasca-Great Slave Lake region. 1. Catalogue of the vascular plants. *Journal Arnold Arboretum*, 17: 180-315.

<sup>6</sup>ROWE, J. S. 1959. Forest regions of Canada. Canada Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources. *Forestry Branch Bulletin* 12: 1-71.

<sup>7</sup>SCOTTER, G. 1961. Botanical collections in the Black Lake region of northeastern Saskatchewan, 1960. *Blue Jay*, 39: 23-33.

<sup>8</sup>SCOTTER, G. 1964. Effect of forest fire on the winter range of barren-ground caribou in northern Saskatchewan. *Canadian Wildlife Service Management Bulletin, Series 1*, 18: 1-109.

<sup>9</sup>SCOTTER, G. 1965. A plant collection from the Cochrane River region, northwestern Manitoba. *Blue Jay*, 43: 96-100.

<sup>10</sup>TYRRELL, J. B. 1897. Report on Dqobai, Kazan and Ferguson Rivers and northwest coast of Hudson Bay. *Geological Survey of Canada, Annual Report*, 9, part F: 5-218.



Dew on grass

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