

THE FLOWERING RUSH ON THE ASSINIBOINE RIVER

A NEW LOCALITY IN MANITOBA

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The Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) (Fig. 1) arrived in eastern North America from Europe and Asia at the end of the 19th century and has quickly spread throughout the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes water system. This species was not known to occur in Manitoba until recently and was not included in the recent floras of the region^{1 2} However, it has recently been reported from three localities in Manitoba: Netley Marsh, Patricia Beach and St. Andrews on the Red (Fig. 2 and Table 1).³ It was suggested that due to the ecology of the Flowering Rush (aggressiveness and efficient dispersal mechanisms) it would eventually become widely established in freshwater marshes and river edges throughout the prairies of western Canada.

During the summers of 1980 and 1981 collections were made of Flowering Rush from colonies which had established themselves along the shallow shores of the Assiniboine River, 10 km upstream from the

forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in Winnipeg (Fig. 2 and Table 1). These colonies upstream from the previously reported sites seemed to be well established and represent a new locality in the province. The Flowering Rush is probably more common in southern Manitoba than we realise, but has gone unnoticed or unrecognised by individuals. Since the plant has attractive flowers and is easy to spot because of its size, it will undoubtedly become more familiar to Manitobans as it extends its range in the province.

¹ LOOMAN, J. and K.F. BEST 1979 Budd's flora of the Canadian Prairie Provinces. Agriculture Canada Publ. 1662, Ottawa.

² SCOGGAN, H.J. 1957 Flora of Manitoba. National Museum of Canada Bull. No. 140, Ottawa.

³ STANIFORTH, R.J. and K.A. FREGO 1980 Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) in the Canadian Prairies. Can. Field-Nat. 94:333-336.

Table 1. COLLECTIONS OF FLOWERING RUSH (*Butomus umbellatus*) IN MANITOBA HERBARIA.

Location	Collector and Date	Herbarium Specimens*
1) Netley Marsh	M. Hoefs, Sept. 1967	WIN 15071
	M. Hoefs, Sept. 1967	WIN 15072
	J.R.B. Brown, 13 August 1967	WIN 4441
	D. Punter, August 1972	WIN 26142
	G.M. Keleher, 8 October 1975	WIN 30293
	S. Anderson, 3 September 1979	MMMN 012143
2) Patricia Beach	S. Anderson, 8 August 1982	MMMN 013489
	R.J. Staniforth, 15 June 1977	UWPG 0125A
3) St. Andrews on the Red	R.J. Staniforth, 18 July 1977	UWPG 0125
4) Assiniboine River, Winnipeg	L.J. Hutchison, 19 August 1980	LH 91
	L.J. Hutchison, 26 August 1981	WIN 37474

* WIN = Herbarium of the University of Manitoba; MMMN = Herbarium of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature; UWPG = Herbarium of the University of Winnipeg; LH = Herbarium of Leonard Hutchison.



Figure 1. *Flowering Rush colony growing along Assiniboine River, Winnipeg.* L. Hutchison