

From letter of E.B. to W.D. November 8, 1913.

3. A better mark of distinction between V. pubescens and V. eriocar-  
pa, because not affected by environment, may be found, I think, in the num-  
ber of teeth on the lowest stem-leaf. I select this leaf because always  
present and usually better developed than later leaves. In 15 such leaves  
of random specimens of V. eriocarpa the teeth on either side of the leaf  
(not counting the apex) averaged  $13\frac{1}{5}$ ; in 12 leaves of V. pubescens the cor-  
responding value was  $18\frac{2}{6}$ , making the teeth on a leaf of V. pubescens 43  
percent more numerous than on a leaf of V. eriocarpa. The number of teeth  
does not change as the leaf expands, and in the latter species the en-  
larged summer leaves are as a rule coarsely and sinuately crenate-serrate.  
(See 147 Brainerd's Violets of Eastern No. Am., 1910---V. scabriuscula;  
compare also Greene's description of his "V. achlydophylla," the type  
of which was collected as late as June 27\*.) In Mr. Allen's three speci-  
mens the number of teeth on the garden plants--17--seems to be about the  
same as on the plant from the woods. I incline to the opinion that much  
of what is called "V. scabriuscula" in modern herbaria is only V. pubescens  
growing in the open.

\*Pittonia 5:87. This spurious species is nothing but V. eriocarpa,  
(V. scabriuscula), of which Greene had said four lines earlier: "I find no  
trace in the collection" of violet specimens sent from the herbarium of  
the University of Minnesota.

My dear Mr. Deane:-

I am glad that you are inclined to test the above inference.  
It should be verified by as large a number of instances as possible. Of  
course the preliminary determination of the species under examination  
should be made by the customary criteria.

I hope to reach Boston the first of next week,

Yours faithfully,

Ezra Brainerd.

Middlebury, Dec. 10, 1913.



Brainerd, Ezra. 1913. "Brainerd, Ezra Nov. 10, 1913 [with quote from Nov. 8, 1913 letter from Ezra Brainerd to Walter Deane]." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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