

# TORREYA

Vol. 20

No. 2

March-April, 1920

## SOME LOCAL NAMES OF PLANTS—III\*

BY W. L. MCATEE

The present contribution to an enumeration of the local names of American plants is compiled from several sources. It includes names learned by the writer on field trips, both official and personal, others kindly contributed by friends (to whom credit is given in connection with the names), local terms gleaned from herbarium sheets and a few from old books. In the latter case opportunity was taken to rescue from apparent oblivion the more interesting plant appellations contained in the Arctic Zoology (T. Pennant, 1785) and in Travels in the Confederation (1783-4, Schoepf, J. D., translated by Alfred J. Morrison, 1911).

Whenever possible the locality where each name is or has been used is cited. Like previous contributions this list is numbered and indexed. As a point of interest, it may be mentioned that of the 95 specific groups of plants catalogued 52 were named by Linnaeus. Original authorities for names only are cited, and except in the case of Linnaeus are spelled out.

### POLYPODIACEAE

1. *Pteridium aquilinum* L.—Po man's soap, Alabama. (E. G. Holt.)

### EQUISETACEAE

2. *Equisetum* spp.—Fishpoles, Traverse City, Mich.

### PINACEAE

3. *Pinus strobus* L.—The name cork pine, applied to mature trees of this species, appears not to be recorded in current manuals and glossaries.

\* No. 1 of this series was published in TORREYA, 13: 225-236, 1913, and No. 2 in TORREYA, 16: 235-242, 1916.

[No. 1, Vol. 20 of TORREYA, comprising pp. 1-16, was issued 1 April 1920]

4. *Tsuga canadensis* L.—Weymouth fir, Juniata River, Pa. (Schoepf, I, p. 226.)

## ZANNICHELLIACEAE

5. *Potamogeton americanus* Chamisso and Schlechtendahl.—Flag, cane grass, Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.  
 6. *Potamogeton pectinatus* L.—Potato moss, duck moss, duck grass, Salt Lake Valley, Utah. (A. Wetmore.)  
 7. *Ruppia maritima* L.—Redhead grass, Horn Point, Va.  
 8. *Naias flexilis* Willdenow.—Cedar grass, Horn Point, Va.

## SCHEUCHZERIAEAE

9. *Triglochin maritima* L.—Goose grass, Lower Klamath Lake, Calif.

## VALLISNERIACEAE

10. *Vallisneria spiralis* L.—Celery grass, Horn Point, Va.; Canvas-back grass, Chesapeake Bay, Md. (Sharpless in Audubon, Ornithological Biography, 5, 1839, p. 137.)

## GRAMINEAE

11. *Echinochloa crus-galli* L.—Whiteshank, red-shank, Brunswick Co., S. C.; cat-tail, Charleston, S. C., Savannah, Ga.  
 12. *Zizaniopsis miliacea* Michaux.—Sword grass, Goose Creek, S. C.  
 13. *Zizania aquatica* L.—Water tare-grass (Pennant, II, p. 263); reed is the name that has long been, and still is in use in the vicinity of Philadelphia, Pa., and Wilmington, Del.  
 14. *Calamagrostis inexpansa* A. Gray.—Wild redtop, Lower Klamath Lake, Calif.  
 15. *Spartina michauxiana* Hitchcock.—Prairie grass, ramrod grass, Peruque, Mo.; lowland grass, sawgrass, rip-gut, Hartmann, Mo.  
 15a. *Scolochloa festucacea* Willdenow.—Wild Rice, North Dakota. (F. P. Metcalf.)

## CYPERACEAE

16. *Eleocharis palustris* L.—Wire grass, Salt Lake Valley, Utah. (A. Wetmore.)

17. *Scirpus occidentalis* S. Watson.—Tule, Salt Lake Valley, Utah. (A. Wetmore.)

18. *Scirpus paludosus* A. Nelson.—Tule, bayonet grass, Salt Lake Valley, Utah (A. Wetmore); latter name used in North Dakota also. (F. P. Metcalf.)

19. *Rhynchospora corniculata* Lamarck.—Spade grass, Savannah, Ga.

#### PONTEDERIACEAE

20. *Heteranthera dubia* Jacquin.—Buffalo grass, Reelfoot Lake, Tenn. This is the plant to which the name buffalo grass is most frequently applied; however the term is loosely used to denote any submerged vegetation other than cedar moss (*Ceratophyllum*) to which buffalo fish resort; in this way sometimes applied to *Naias flexilis* and *Philotria canadensis*.

#### JUNCACEAE

21. *Juncus effusus* L.—Sugar grass, Lower Klamath Lake, Calif.

#### MELANTHACEAE

22. *Veratrum viride* Aiton.—Rattle-snake root. (Schoepf, I, p. 319.)

#### LILIACEAE

23. *Brodiaea* sp.—Wild onion, ground-nut, Los Angeles, Calif.

24. *Yucca gloriosa* L.—Palmetto, Florida. (Schoepf, II, p. 243.)

#### TRILLIACEAE

25. *Trillium* spp.—Corn lilies, Traverse City, Mich.

#### SMILACACEAE

26. *Smilax herbacea* L.—Field yam-root, Manitowoc, Wis., R. M. Strong; Bohea tea, Mercersburg, Pa., Detwiller.

27. *Smilax bona-nox* L.—Stretch-berry, Charleston, S. C., J. W. Harshberger.

27a. *Smilax* spp.—Bull-grip, Goose Creek, S. C.

#### IRIDACEAE

28. *Iris verna* L.—Violet, South Carolina. (Schoepf, II, p. 138.)

## ORCHIDACEAE

29. *Cypripedium* spp.—Pitcher plant, Traverse City, Mich.

*Myricaceae*

30. *Myrica* sp.—Low mucker, undoubtedly a corruption of low myrtle, Goose Creek, S. C.

## SALICACEAE

31. *Salix amygdaloides* Anderson.—Black willow, Salt Lake Valley, Utah (A. Wetmore.)  
 32. *Salix exigua* Nuttall.—Gray willow, Salt Lake Valley, Utah. (A. Wetmore.)

## BETULACEAE

33. *Carpinus caroliniana* Walter.—Black beech, Admiral, Md. (Francis Harper.)

## FAGACEAE

34. *Quercus ilicifolia* Wangenheim.—Bush oak (Schoepf, I, p. 159.)

## ULMACEAE

35. *Celtis douglasii* Planchon.—Wild orange, Lyle, Wash. (G. G. Cantwell.)

## URTICACEAE

36. *Pilea pumila* L.—Bastard nettle, dead nettle, silverweed. (Stokes, James. Med. and Surg. Rep. 17, 1867, p. 373.)

## ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

37. *Asarum* sp.—Coltsfoot. (Schoepf, I, p. 319.)

## CHENOPODIACEAE

38. *Allenrolfea utahensis* Tidestrom.—Saltweed, Salt Lake Valley, Utah. (A. Wetmore.)  
 39. *Salicornia europea* L.—Saltweed, Salt Lake Valley, Utah. (A. Wetmore.)  
 40. *Salicornia* sp.—Sea cress, Wallops Id., Va.

## CERATOPHYLLACEAE

41. *Ceratophyllum demersum* L.—Fish-blankets, Oakley, S. C. (Nathaniel Heyward.); cedar moss, Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.

## CABOMBACEAE

42. *Brasenia schreberi* Gmelin.—Egg bonnet, purple bonnet, Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.

## NELUMBONACEAE

43. *Nelumbo lutea* Willdenow.—Jacquinot, Peruque, Mo., Alligator buttons, Goose Creek, S. C.; bonnet, yonkapin bonnet, Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.

## NYMPHAEACEAE

44. *Nymphaea advena* Solander.—Mulefoot, mulefoot lily, mulefoot bonnet, Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.

45. *Castalia odorata* Dryander.—Alligator bonnet, Cameron Parish, La. (E. G. Holt.)

## MAGNOLIACEAE

46. *Magnolia virginiana* L.—Brewster, Brown's Mills, N. J. (Alex. McElwee.)

47. *Magnolia acuminata* L.—Blue or mountain magnolia. (Schoepf, I, p. 227.)

48. *Magnolia grandiflora* L.—Laurel-tree. (Pennant, II, p. 411.)

## BERBERIDACEAE

49. *Achlys triphylla* De Candolle.—Vanilla plant, Carson, Wash. (G.G. Cantwell.)

50. *Podophyllum peltatum* L.—Mug-apple. (Pennant, II, p. 326.)

## MENISPERMACEAE

51. *Cocculus carolinus* L.—Sarsaparilla, used as a tonic, Texas. (Lincecum.)

## CRUCIFERAE

52. *Bursa bursa-pastoris* L.—Hen pepper, pepper-weed, Marion, Ind.

## CAPPARIDACEAE

53. *Cleome serrulata* Pursh.—Skunk-weed, several western states. (A. Wetmore.)

## ROSACEAE

54. *Cercocarpus* spp.—Rabbit brush, quail brush, Apache plume, southern Arizona. (A. Wetmore.)

## AMYGDALACEAE

55. *Prunus americana* Marshall.—Indian plum, Pennsylvania. (Schoepf. I, p. 165.)  
 56. *Prunus pumila* L.—Butter plum, La Pointe, Wis. (I. A. Lapham.)

## FABACEAE

57. *Arachis hypogoea* L.—Been-nuts, Bladensburg, Md. (Schoepf, I, p. 354.)  
 58. *Aeschynomene virginica* L.—Indigo, Savannah, Ga.  
 59. *Daubentonia longifolia* Cavanilles.—Seenie bean, Indigo, Cameron Parish, La. (E. G. Holt.)

## SIMAROUBACEAE

60. *Holacantha emoryi* A. Gray.—Crucifixion thorn, Higley, Ariz. (E. G. Holt.)

## MELIACEAE

61. *Melia azederach* L.—Paternoster tree, Virginia. (Schoepf, II, p. 77.)

## ANACARDIACEAE

62. *Rhus copallina* L.—Black sumach, Texas. (Lincecum.)  
 63. *Toxicodendron radicans* L.—Poison ash, Mercersburg, Pa. (Detwiller.); shoestring weed, Church's Id., N. C.

## ILACACEAE

64. *Ilex cassine* L.—Japan, North Carolina, (Schoepf, II, p. 113.) This seems simply a corruption of youpon, but probably was in local use as the author quoted repeats the word in the name of a drink, "Japan tea."  
 65. *Ilex vomitoria* Aiton.—Deerberry, Texas. (Lincecum.)  
 66. *Ilex glabra* L.—Bear-bush, Brown's Mills, N. J. (Alex. McElwee.)  
 67. *Ilex verticillata* L.—Winterberry, Mercersburg, Pa. (Detwiller.); northern holly, Traverse City, Mich.

## CELASTRACEAE

68. *Celastrus scandens* L.—Redroot, Mercersburg, Pa. (Detwiller.)

## ACERACEAE

69. *Acer negundo* L.—White ash. (Schoepf, I, p. 319.)

## SAPINDACEAE

70. *Sapindus drummondii* Hooker and Arnott.—Wild China, groves of the trees called "China motts," Midland, Texas. (E. G. Holt.)

## VITACEAE

71. *Vitis labrusca* L.—Raccoon grape, Coatsville, Pa. (Tatnall.); coon-grape, Ashland, Del. (A. Commons.); swamp grape, Tennessee. (T. V. Munson.)

72. *Vitis berlandieri* Planchon.—Fall or winter grape. (T. V. M.)

73. *Vitis cinerea* Engelm.—Bunch grape, Gumboro, Del. (A. Commons.); sweet winter grape. (T. V. M.)

74. *Vitis cordifolia* Michaux.—Sour winter grape. (T. V. M.)

75. *Vitis coriacea* Shuttleworth.—Leatherleaf, Caloosa or Florida grape. (T. V. M.)

76. *Vitis aestivalis* var. *lincecumii* Munson.—Postoak or turkey grape. (T. V. M.)

77. *Vitis munsoniana* Simpson.—Everbearing, bird or mustang grape. (T. V. M.)

78. *Vitis palmata* Vahl.—Cat grape. (T. V. M.)

79. *Vitis rupestris* Scheele.—Sand-beach grape. (T. V. M.)

80. *Vitis simpsoni* Munson.—Rusty winter grape. (T. V. M.)

A number of the grape names here given were obtained from a herbarium set made up by T. V. Munson. They may be in part, mere personal inventions, but on the other hand, some of them appear to be local names collected by this grape specialist. Many of Munson's grape names are included in Bailey's "cyclopedia of Horticulture," but those here recorded have not yet found recognition in modern manuals.

81. *Ampelopsis cordata* Michaux.—Raccoon, or swamp grape, Louisiana. (Clarendon Peck.)

## MALVACEAE

82. *Sida* sp.—Tea-weed, Goose Creek, S. C.; Savannah, Ga.

## THYMELEACEAE

83. *Dirca palustris* L.—Wickerby bush, Moosehead Lake, Me. (C. H. Goodwin.)

## ONAGRACEAE

84. *Jussiaea diffusa* Forskal.—Water pusley, Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.

## AMMIACEAE

85. *Erigenia bulbosa* Michaux.—Turkeyfoot, Marion, Ind.

## CORNACEAE

86. *Cornus stolonifera* Michaux.—Red willow, Traverse City, Mich.

## ERICACEAE

87. *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* L.—Mealyberry, Nantucket, Mass. (J. W. Harshberger.)

This name is also used in Pine-barren region of New Jersey.

## APOCYNACEAE

88. *Carissa carandas* L.—Crown-of-thorns, cultivated, Bradentown, Fla.

## ASCLEPIADACEAE

89. *Asclepias tuberosa* L.—Indian-plume, Indian-paint, Traverse City, Mich.

## VERBENACEAE

90. *Callicarpa americana* L.—Sourberry, Virginia. (Schoepf, II, p. 82.); Spanish mulberry, Texas. (Lincecum.)

## LABIATAE

91. *Clinopodium nepeta* L.—Sheepmint, Cleveland Park, D. C. (H. L. Viereck.)  
92. *Cunila origanoides* L.—Pennyroyal. (Schoepf, I, p. 319.)

## SCROPHULARIACEAE

93. *Verbascum thapsus* L.—Goose-grass. (Schoepf, I, p. 196.)  
94. *Paulownia tomentosa* Thunberg.—Blue catalpa, Washington, D. C.

## RUBIACEAE

95. *Cephalanthus occidentalis* L.—Buckbrush, Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.; Peruque, Mo.  
 96. *Mitchella repens* L.—Squawberry, Traverse City, Mich.  
 97. *Diodia virginiana* L.—Jacob's-ladder, Savannah, Ga.

## CAPRIFOLIACEAE

98. *Lonicera dioica* L.—Bittersweet, Milwaukee, Wis. (I. A. Lapham.)  
 99. *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* Hooker.—Buckbrush, badgerbrush, Pingree, Binford, N. Dak. (D. C. Mabbott.)

## CAMPANULACEAE

100. *Campanula rotundifolia* L.—Blue or heatherbells, Traverse City, Mich.

## COMPOSITAE

101. *Baccharis halimifolia* L.—Waterbush, water-gall, Horn Point, Va.  
 102. *Anaphalis margaritacea* L.—Indian tobacco, Traverse City, Mich.  
 103. *Rudbeckia hirta* L.—Black-eyed daisy, Baltimore, Md.  
 104. *Rudbeckia montana* A. Gray.—Niggerhead, Uintah Mts., Utah. (J. Silver.)

## INDEX

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Alligator bonnet, 45  | Black-eyed daisy, 103 |
| Alligator buttons, 43 | Black sumach, 62      |
| Apple, Mug, 50        | Black willow, 31      |
| Ash, Poison, 63       | Bluebells, 100        |
| Ash, White, 69        | Blue catalpa, 94      |
|                       | Blue magnolia, 47     |
| Badgerbrush, 99       | Bohea tea, 26         |
| Bastard nettle, 36    | Bonnet, 43            |
| Bayonet grass, 18     | Bonnet, Alligator, 45 |
| Bear-bush, 66         | Bonnet, Egg, 42       |
| Bean, Seenie, 59      | Bonnet, Mulefoot, 44  |
| Beech, Black, 33      | Bonnet, Purple, 42    |
| Been-nuts, 57         | Bonnet, Yonkapin, 43  |
| Berry, Deer, 65       | Brewster, 46          |
| Berry, Mealy, 87      | Brush, Badger, 99     |
| Berry, Sour, 90       | Brush, Buck, 95, 99   |
| Berry, Squaw, 96      | Brush, Quail, 54      |
| Berry, Stretch, 27    | Brush, Rabbit, 54     |
| Berry, Winter, 67     | Buckbrush, 95, 99     |
| Bittersweet, 98       | Buffalo grass, 20     |
| Black beech, 33       | Bull grip, 27a        |

Bunch grape, 73  
 Bush, Bear, 66  
 Bush oak, 34  
 Bush, Water, 101  
 Bush, Wickerby, 83  
 Butter plum, 56

Caloosa grape, 75  
 Cane grass, 5  
 Canvass-back grass, 10  
 Catalpa, Blue, 94  
 Cat grape, 78  
 Cat-tail, 11  
 Cedar grass, 8  
 Cedar moss, 41  
 Celery grass, 10  
 China, Wild, 70  
 Coltsfoot, 37  
 Coongrape, 71  
 Cork pine, 3  
 Corn lilies, 25  
 Cress, Sea, 40  
 Crown-of-thorns, 88  
 Crucifixion thorn, 60

Daisy, Black-eyed, 103  
 Dead nettle, 36  
 Deerberry, 65  
 Duck grass, 6  
 Duck moss, 6

Egg bonnet, 42

Fall grape, 72  
 Field yam-root, 26  
 Fir, Weymouth, 4  
 Fish-blankets, 41  
 Fishpoles, 2  
 Flag, 5  
 Florida grape, 75

Goose grass, 9, 93  
 Grape, Bunch, 73  
 Grape, Caloosa, 75  
 Grape, Cat, 78  
 Grape, Coon, 71  
 Grape, Fall, 72  
 Grape, Florida, 75  
 Grape, Leatherleaf, 75  
 Grape, Post-oak, 76  
 Grape, Raccoon, 71, 81  
 Grape, Rusty winter, 80  
 Grape, Sand beach, 79  
 Grape, Sour winter, 74  
 Grape, Swamp, 71, 81  
 Grape, Sweet winter, 73  
 Grape, Turkey, 76  
 Grape, Winter, 72  
 Grass, Bayonet, 18  
 Grass, Buffalo, 20

Grass, Cane, 5  
 Grass, Canvass-back, 10  
 Grass, Cedar, 8  
 Grass, Celery, 10  
 Grass, Duck, 6  
 Grass, Goose, 9, 93  
 Grass, Lowland, 15  
 Grass, Prairie, 15  
 Grass, Ramrod, 15  
 Grass, Redhead, 7  
 Grass, Spade, 19  
 Grass, Sugar, 21  
 Grass, Sword, 12  
 Grass, Wire, 16  
 Gray willow, 32  
 Ground-nut, 23

Heatherbells, 100  
 Hen-pepper, 52  
 Holly, Northern, 67

Indian paint, 89  
 Indian plum, 55  
 Indian plume, 89  
 Indian tobacco, 102  
 Indigo, 58, 59

Jacob's-ladder, 97  
 Jacquinot, 43  
 Japan, 64

Laurel-tree, 48  
 Leatherleaf grape, 75  
 Lilies, corn, 25  
 Lily, Mulefoot, 44  
 Lowland grass, 15  
 Low mucker, 30  
 Low myrtle, 30

Magnolia, Blue, 47  
 Magnolia, Mountain, 47  
 Mealyberry, 87  
 Mint, Sheep, 91  
 Moss, Cedar, 41  
 Moss, Duck, 6  
 Moss, Potato, 6  
 Mountain magnolia, 47  
 Mucker, Low, 30  
 Mug-apple, 50  
 Mulberry, Spanish, 90  
 Mulefoot, mulefoot bonnet or lily, 44  
 Myrtle, Low, 30

Nettle, Bastard, 36  
 Nettle, Dead, 36  
 Niggerhead, 104  
 Northern holly, 67  
 Nuts, Been, 57

Oak, Bush, 34

Onion, Wild, 23  
 Orange, Wild, 35  
 Palmetto, 24  
 Paternoster tree, 61  
 Pennyroyal, 92  
 Pepper, Hen, 52  
 Pepper-weed, 52  
 Pine, Cork, 3  
 Pitcher plant, 29  
 Plant, Pitcher, 29  
 Plant, Vanilla, 49  
 Plum, Butter, 56  
 Plum, Indian, 55  
 Poison ash, 63  
 Po man's soap, 1  
 Post-oak grape, 76  
 Potato moss, 6  
 Prairie grass, 15  
 Purple bonnet, 42  
 Pusley, Water, 84  
  
 Quail brush, 54  
  
 Rabbit brush, 54  
 Raccoon grape, 71, 81  
 Ramrod grass, 15  
 Rattle-snake root, 22  
 Redhead grass, 7  
 Redroot, 68  
 Redshank, 11  
 Redtop, Wild, 14  
 Red willow, 86  
 Reed, 13  
 Rice, Wild, 15a  
 Ripgut, 15  
 Root, Rattle-snake, 22  
 Root, Red, 68  
 Rusty winter grape, 80  
  
 Saltweed, 38, 39  
 Sand-beach grape, 79  
 Sarsaparilla, 51  
 Sawgrass, 15  
 Sea cress, 40  
 Seenie bean, 59  
 Sheepmint, 91  
 Shoestring weed, 63  
 Silverweed, 36  
 Skunk-weed, 53  
 Soap, Po man's, 1  
 Sourberry, 90  
 Sour winter grape, 74

Spade grass, 19  
 Spanish mulberry, 90  
 Squawberry, 96  
 Stretch-berry, 27  
 Sugar grass, 21  
 Sumach, Black, 62  
 Swamp grape, 71, 81  
 Sweet winter grape, 73  
 Sword grass, 12

Tare-grass, Water, 13  
 Tea, Bohea, 26  
 Tea-weed, 82  
 Thorn, Crucifixion, 60  
 Tobacco, Indian, 102  
 Tree, Laurel, 48  
 Tree, Paternoster, 61  
 Tule, 17, 18  
 Turkey-foot, 85  
 Turkey grape, 76

Vanilla plant, 49  
 Violet, 28

Waterbush, 101  
 Watergall, 101  
 Water pusley, 84  
 Water tare-grass, 13  
 Weed, Pepper, 52  
 Weed, Salt, 38, 39  
 Weed, Shoestring, 63  
 Weed, Silver, 36  
 Weed, Skunk, 53  
 Weed, Tea, 82  
 Weymouth fir, 4  
 White ash, 69  
 Whiteshank, 11  
 Wickerby bush, 83  
 Wild China, 70  
 Wild onion, 23  
 Wild orange, 35  
 Wild redtop, 14  
 Wild rice, 15a  
 Willow, Black, 31  
 Willow, Gray, 32  
 Willow, Red, 86  
 Winterberry, 67  
 Winter grape, 72  
 Wire grass, 16

Yam-root, Field, 26  
 Yonkapin bonnet, 43



McAtee, W. L. 1920. "SOME LOCAL NAMES OF PLANTS—III." *Torreya* 20(2), 17–27.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/100133>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/348291>

**Holding Institution**

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

**Sponsored by**

The LuEsther T Mertz Library, the New York Botanical Garden

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.