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SOME LOCAL NAMES OF PLANTS

BY W. L. MCATEE

The following collection of local plant names consists chiefly of those learned during field work for the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Most of them are not found in current glossaries, and the few that are, here receive new annotation. In American dictionaries of plant names, the citation of localities where each name is used is too often lacking. The locality is the very heart of the matter, is what gives the record interest and value for the study of lingual and racial peculiarities and history. It is essential, furthermore, for translation of these provincial terms into scientific nomenclature since the same name may have widely different meanings in different localities.

A large proportion of the names here listed are those of aquatic or marsh plants. Submerged aquatic plants in general are known among hunters and others as grass, moss or weeds. Various adjectival terms are used to specify the different kinds. The present list is indexed so that it may be used to supplement other glossaries.

CHARACEAE

1. *Chara* sp.—Fine moss, New Richmond, Mich.; oyster grass, nigger-wool, Currituck Sound, N. C.; musk grass, St. Vincent Id., Fla.; skunk grass, Squibnocket, Marthas Vineyard, Mass. The last two names allude to a strong odor given off by a mass of the plants when freshly taken from the water. It is not a little suggestive of skunk.

PINACEAE

2. *Pinus serotina* Michx.—Rosemary pine, Santee Club, S. C.

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JUNIPERACEAE

3. *Taxodium distichum* (L.) L. C. Rich.—Cypre, Avoyelles Parish, La.

TYPHACEAE

4. *Typha angustifolia* L.—Flag grass, Mississippi Delta, La.

SPARGANIACEAE

- 4a. *Sparganium* sp.—Ox-tongue, Santee Club, S. C. Sold to the Club as *Vallisneria spiralis*.

ZANNICHELLIACEAE

5. *Potamogeton nuttallii* Cham. and Schlecht.—Widgeon grass, Massachusetts.
6. *Potamogeton pectinatus* L.—Sago, Duluth, Minn.; eel grass, Lake Surprise, Texas, Centre Moriches, L. I., Currituck Sound, N. C.; Indian grass, Cayuga Lake, N. Y. (according to Dr. R. V. Pierce); foxtail or foxtail grass, Currituck Sound, N. C.; wild celery, Lake Surprise, Texas, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Apparently this is the plant known as "poker grass" in England, the name being taken from pochard, a duck closely related to our redhead.
7. *Potamogeton perfoliatus* L.—Duck grass, Centre Moriches, L. I.; redhead grass, Currituck Sound, N. C., St. Vincent Id., Fla.
8. *Potamogeton foliosus* Raf.—Grass moss, maiden-hair moss, Menasha, Ark.
9. *Ruppia maritima* L.—Nigger-wool, Chef Menteur, La.; widgeon grass, South Id., S. C.; puldoo grass, St. Vincent Id., Fla. The adjectival portion of this term is a modification of Poule d'eau, a name applied by the French citizens of the Southern States to the coot (*Fulica americana*).

NAIADACEAE

10. *Naias flexilis* (Willd.) Rostk. and Schmidt.—Fine or chaffy moss, Lake Wapanoca, Ark.

ALISMACEAE

11. *Echinodorus radicans* (Nutt.) Engelm.—Lily-pads, Lake Wapanoca, Ark.

12. *Sagittaria latifolia* Willd.—This is the famous wapato, wappatoo, or duck potato of the Northwestern States. It is known as Chinese onion, and muskrat potato at Oshkosh, Wis.
13. *Sagittaria platyphylla* (Engelm.) J. G. Smith.—Wild potato, Venice, La., Mississippi Delta, La.; white potato, Venice, La.; wild onion, Vermilion Bay, La.
14. *Sagittaria teres* S. Wats.—Goose grass, Currituck Sound, N. C.

ELEODACEAE

15. *Vallisneria spiralis* L.—Poppy, Cayuga Lake, N. Y. (according to Dr. R. V. Pierce); ox-tongue, Chef Menteur, La.

POACEAE

16. *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) Beauv. [including the forms *longearistata* Nash and *walteri* Pursh.].—Wild rice, Cameron, La., Avoyelles Parish, La., in fact this name is in use throughout lower Louisiana; blue duck food, Mississippi Delta, La.; wild millet, Oshkosh, Wis., Gaston, Ore.; goose grass, Grand Island, Illinois River.
17. *Panicum condensum* Nash.—Folle avoine, Hamburg, La. This name may be applied by our French-speaking people to almost any grass with a conspicuous panicle. The most talked of, yes even traditional folle avoine is either *Zizania* or *Zizaniopsis*.
18. *Panicum repens* L.—Johnson grass, Mississippi Delta, La., Belle Isle, La.
19. *Zizaniopsis miliacea* (Michx.) Doell. and Aschers.—Cut grass, Mississippi Delta, La.; white marsh, Santee Club, S. C.; roseau, Hamburg, La.
20. *Zizania aquatica* L.—Wild oats, Kittyhawk, N. C.; wild millet, Apalachicola, Fla.*
21. *Spartina glabra* Muhl.—Wild rice, Cameron, La.; oyster grass, Mississippi Delta, La.
22. *Phragmites communis* Trin.—Cane, St. Vincent Id., Fla.,

* For a long list of popular synonyms of *Zizania*, see Jenks, A. E., 19th Ann. Rep. Bur. Am. Ethnol. (1897-98), 1900, pp. 1022-1024.

Mississippi Delta, La., Vermilion Bay, La.; roseau, Chef Menteur, La., Mississippi Delta, La.; in fact this term is in use in most parts of Louisiana. In France this species is the roseau a bàlai (broom reed), while *Arundo donax* is the roseau commun.

23. *Distichlis spicata* (L.) Greene.—Wire grass, Santee Club, S. C.
24. *Arundinaria tecta* (Walt.) Muhl.—Cane, Church's Island, N. C., Santee Club, S. C.; switch cane, Lake Charles, La.

CYPERACEAE

25. *Cyperus engelmannii* Steud. and *Cyperus speciosus* Vahl.—Red-top grass, Lake Wapanoca, Ark.
26. *Cyperus pseudovegetus* Steud.—Cache-cache, Lake Pearl, La. All species of the genus *Cyperus*, as well as similar appearing plants of other genera, go by this name throughout most of Louisiana.
27. *Scirpus americanus* Pers.—Three-square, Squibnocket, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Centre Moriches, L. I.
28. *Scirpus eriophorum* Michx.—Bull-head, Santee Club, S. C.
29. *Scirpus occidentalis* (Wats.) Chase.—Cane, Marquette, Wis.
30. *Scirpus robustus* Pursh.—Goose grass (the rootstocks being eaten), Mississippi Delta, La.
31. *Scirpus* spp.—Coco, coco grass, sometimes sweet coco grass, various localities in Louisiana.
32. *Rhynchospora corniculata* (Lam.) A. Gray.—Pollywog, Santee Club, S. C. An apt term taken from the beaked akenes.

ARACEAE

33. *Peltandra virginica* (L.) Kunth.—Hog wampee, Santee Club, S. C. Hogs are very fond of the roots and leaves of this plant. Arrow-weed, New Richmond, Mich.

LEMNACEAE

34. *Lemna*. *Wolffia*.—These plants, together with *Azolla* and *Ricciella*, collectively are termed "seed moss" at Menasha Ark.

PONTEDERIACEAE

36. *Piaropus crassipes* (Mart.) Britton.—Waterlilies, Marks-ville, La.
37. *Pontederia cordata* L.—Black potato, Venice, La.; cow, cooter or dog-tongue wampee, Santee Club, S. C. Called cooter wampee because cooters or fresh-water terrapins eat the leaves. It is said that hogs avoid this plant. Gerard* also notes the use of this name in South Carolina and states that it is sometimes applied to *Arisaema triphyllum* in addition to *Pontederia* and *Peltandra*. It is of interest that the term wampee is employed in China to distinguish a plant of the citrus family (*Cookia punctata*†).

SMILACACEAE

38. *Smilax* spp.—Called by the very appropriate name hell-ropes in Arkansas. Devil's clothes-line is the apt vernacular in parts of Maryland.

SAURURACEAE

39. *Saururus cernuus* L.—Swamp lily, Big Lake, Ark.

FAGACEAE

40. *Quercus laurifolia* Michx.—Red, pin or water oak, Abbeville, La.
41. *Quercus lyrata* Walt.—Spanish oak, Big Lake, Ark.
42. *Quercus michauxii* Nutt.—White oak, Abbeville, La.
43. *Quercus nigra* L.—Bastard oak, Santee Club, S. C.
44. *Quercus texana* Buckl.—Willow oak, Abbeville, La.

ULMACEAE

45. *Planera aquatica* (Walt.) J. F. Gmel.—Chataignier, Marks-ville, La. Quite a new application of this French name for *Castanea vesca*.
46. *Celtis mississippiensis* Bosc.—Hen-turd tree, Church's Island, N. C.

* Garden and Forest, IX, No. 439, July 29, 1896, p. 303.

† Smith, J. Dictionary of Economic Plants, 1882, p. 434.

POLYGONACEAE

47. *Polygonum hydropiper* L.—Wild buckwheat, Gaston, Ore.
 48. *Polygonum lapathifolium* L.—Horse marsh, Santee Club, S. C.
 49. *Polygonum sagittatum* L.—Cut or saw grass, Santee Club, S. C.

CHENOPODIACEAE

50. *Salicornia ambigua* Michx.—Cactus, Cameron, La.

PHYTOLACCACEAE

51. *Phytolacca decandra* L.—Chou gras (fat cabbage), Marksville, La.

NELUMBONACEAE

52. *Nelumbo lutea* (Willd.) Pers.—Vole, Lake Pearl, Marksville, and other localities in Louisiana. Grand ovale, yawk nut, Venice, La.; yonkapin, Big Lake, Ark. Gerard* gives a similar term wampapin, as probably from an Algonkin dialect.

NYMPHAEACEAE

53. *Castalia* sp.—Alligator blankets, Santee Club, S. C.

CERATOPHYLLACEAE

54. *Ceratophyllum demersum* L.—Coon-tail, Big Lake, Ark., Marksville, La.; coon-tail moss, Menasha and Lake Wapanoca, Ark.; June grass, Centre Moriches, L. I.

MAGNOLIACEAE

55. *Magnolia foetida* (L.) Sarg.—Bay, Longbridge, La.

BRASSICACEAE

56. *Erysimum inconspicuum* (Wats.) MacM.—Jim Hill mustard, Missoula Mont. (according to Prof. D. E. Lantz, Aug. 23, 1912). This term insinuates that the Northern Pacific Railroad is responsible for the dissemination of this weed.

* Garden and Forest, IX, No. 439, July 29, 1896, p. 303.

SARRACENIACEAE

57. *Sarracenia minor* Walt.—Fly-traps, Santee Club, S. C.

ALTINGIACEAE

58. *Liquidambar styraciflua* L.—Copal, Marksville, La.

PLATANACEAE

59. *Platanus occidentalis* L.—Cottonier, Avoyelles Parish, La.
The suggestion of cotton about sycamore seems too slight to warrant the use of this name.

MIMOSACEAE

60. *Vachellia farnesiana* (L.) Wright and Arn.—Mesquite, Cameron, La.

CASSIACEAE

61. *Cassia occidentalis* L.—Coffee-weed, Cameron, La.
62. *Cassia tora* L.—Café sauvage, Marksville, La.
63. *Gleditsia triacanthos* L.—Garofier, Marksville, La.

FABACEAE

64. *Lupinus diffusus* Nutt.—Lavender, St. Vincent Id., Fla.
65. *Sesban macrocarpa* Muhl.—Café sauvage (wild coffee), Indigo sauvage, Marksville, La.; coffee-weed, St. Vincent Id., Fla.
66. *Daubentonia longifolia* (Cav.) D. C.—Coffee-weed, Cameron, La.
67. *Aeschynomene virginica* (L.) B. S. P.—Coffee-grass, Santee Club, S. C.
68. *Erythrina herbacea* L.—Coral vine, St. Vincent Id., Fla.
69. *Canavalia obtusifolia* (Lam.) D. C.—Sea bean, St. Vincent Id., Fla.

RUTACEAE

70. *Fagara clava-herculis* (L.) Small.—Pillenterry, Church's Id., N. C.

EUPHORBIACEAE

71. *Croton engelmannii* Ferguson.—Goat-weed, sheep-weed, Marksville, La.

72. *Croton punctatus* Jacq.—Dove-weed, St. Vincent Id., Fla.
Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) are fond of the seeds.

ANACARDIACEAE

73. *Rhus canadensis* Marsh.—Polecat berries, Cedar Gap, Ozark Mts., Mo. (O. E. Lansing).

AQUIFOLIACEAE

74. *Ilex cassine* L.—Henderson wood, Okefenoke Swamp Charlton Co., Ga. (Huron H. Smith; this name and the last are from sheets in Field Museum).
75. *Ilex glabra* (L.) A. Gray.—Gall berry, Santee Club, S. C., St. Vincent Id., Fla.; gall ring berry, St. Vincent Id., Fla. The writer is satisfied that these names are applied to *Ilex glabra*, although in both localities the plant pointed out was the rather similar appearing *Gaylussacia frondosa*.
76. *Ilex vomitoria* Ait.—Youpon, Church's Island, N. C.; cassena, Santee Club, S. C.; red haw or hoy, Chef Menteur, La.

ACERACEAE

77. *Acer drummondii* Hook and Arn.—White maple, Lake Pearl, La.; plane, Avoyelles Parish, La.

RHAMNACEAE

78. *Berchemia scandens* (Hill) Trelease.—Black-jack, rattan vine, Abbeville, La.; coon grapes, Marksville, La.

MALVACEAE

79. *Sida spinosa* L.—Nail grass, Marksville, La.
80. *Hibiscus lasiocarpus* Cav.—Wild cotton, Marksville, La.

TAMARICACEAE

81. *Tamarix gallica* L.—Salt-water cedar, Belle Isle, La.

PASSIFLORACEAE

82. *Passiflora incarnata* L.—Pop-apple, Church's Island, N. C.

OPUNTIACEAE

83. *Opuntia* sp.—Pomme a raquet, Marksville, La.

LAURACEAE

84. *Persea pubescens* (Pursh.) Sarg.—Sweetberry tree, Santee Club, S. C.

LYTHRACEAE

85. *Decodon verticillata* (L.) Ell.—Red-root, New Richmond, Mich.

ONAGRACEAE

- 85a. *Jussiaea diffusa*.—Water pusley, Big Lake, Ark.

GUNNERACEAE

86. *Myriophyllum pinnatum* (Walt.) B. S. P.—Foftail moss, Big Lake, Ark.

CORNACEAE

87. *Cornus florida* L.—Ironwood, Lake Pearl, La.

EBENACEAE

88. *Diospyros virginiana* L.—Placniet, Avoyelles Parish, La.

SAPOTACEAE

89. *Bumelia lanuginosa* (Michx.) Pers.—Slow-wood, slow-bush, black haw, Cameron, La.

STYRACACEAE

90. *Styrax americana* Lam.—Chaparrelle, Marksville, La.

OLEACEAE

91. *Adelia acuminata* Michx.—Bois blanc, Marksville, La.
 92. *Adelia porulosa* Poir.—Crow-berry, Osprey, Fla. (J. T. Rothrock).
 93. *Osmanthus americanus* (L.) B. and H.—Black haw, St. Vincent Id., Fla.

CONVOLVULACEAE

94. *Ipomoea pes-caprae* (L.) Sweet.—Railroad vine, St. Vincent Id., Fla.

SOLANACEAE

95. *Physalis angulata* L.—Bonnetts de Grandmamam, Marksville, La.

96. *Capsicum baccatum* L.—Bird peppers, Cameron, La.
 97. *Lycium carolinianum* Walt.—Wild gooseberry, Cameron, La.

VERBENACEAE

98. *Callicarpa americana* L.—Commode mulberry, Santee Club, S. C.

PINGUICULACEAE

99. *Utricularia* sp.—String moss, Menasha, Ark.

LORANTHACEAE

100. *Phoradendron flavescens* (Pursh.) Nutt.—Boule de gu, Marksville, La.

RUBIACEAE

101. *Cephalanthus occidentalis* L.—Elbow brush, New Richmond, Mich.; Bois de marais, Marksville, La.

AMBROSIACEAE

102. *Iva frutescens* L.—Lavender, Santee Club, S. C.; horse brush, St. Vincent Id., Fla.; mangrove, Cameron, La.; mangrove brush, Vermilion Bay, La.; mongo tree, Chef Menteur, La.

CARDUACEAE

103. *Baccharis halimifolia* L.—Lavender, Santee Club, S. C.
 104. *Pluchea camphorata* (L.) D. C.—Pink-top smartweed, Church's Island, N. C.
 105. *Borrchia frutescens* (L.) D. C.—Button lavender, Santee Club, S. C., Cameron La.
 106. *Helenium tenuifolium* Nutt.—Bitter weed, Cameron, La.

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