

64,707, the type. This species bears a remarkable likeness to the common chickweed as that appears in its later and fructiferous development. It is akin to *A. alsinoides* of Idaho, yet very distinct.

AN ALPINE VARIETY OF *CNICUS MUTICUS*.

By M. L. FERNALD.

Cnicus muticus of our eastern swamps and low woods is a tall loosely branched plant with numerous scattered heads, the involucre of which are whitened with dense cobwebby hairs. This plant is frequent in southern New England, and in the more northern States and adjacent Canada it becomes one of the conspicuous elements of lowland vegetation.

On the alpine tableland of Mt. Albert in the Shickshock Mountains, a low simple-stemmed *Cnicus* abounds in boggy spots. Ordinarily only 3-6 dm. tall and very strict, with the 3 to 5 showy heads sessile in a terminal glomerule, the plant suggests at first sight some species very remote from the tall loosely branched *C. muticus* of low altitudes. In its dark purplish-green nearly glabrous involucre the plant is likewise quite different from typical *C. muticus* with its strongly white-arachnoid bracts.

On Mt. Albert the plant, as stated, is strict and low, but when it occasionally descends from the alpine tablelands and follows the rivers which have their sources in the Shickshock Mountains it becomes very tall. Thus, in alluvial thickets of the Little Casapedia River the plant, retaining its simple habit and glomerulate heads, becomes 1.6 m. high. As far as known to the writer this characteristic plant is confined to a limited area in eastern Quebec, where it is usually constant to the peculiar characters described. Occasional plants from adjacent territory are similar in habit but with the involucre quite as arachnoid as in typical *Cnicus muticus*. On this account and in the absence of any constant character in the foliage or in the form and texture of the bracts the plant should be considered an extreme variation of the widely distributed *C. muticus*, and on account of its great development in the alpine regions of Mt. Albert it may be called

CNICUS MUTICUS (Michx.) Pursh, var. *monticola* var. nov. Caule

simplice stricto fere 3-6 dm. alto; capitulis 3-5, glomerulatis; involucris companulatis, squamis glabris vel glabrescentibus. QUEBEC, boggy tablelands, altitude 900—1,000 m., Mt. Albert, Gaspé Co., August 12th, 1905 (*Collins & Fernald*). Tall plants, becoming 1.6 m. tall, from alluvium of the Little Cascapedia River, July 29th and 30th, 1904 (*Collins, Fernald & Pease*) probably represent var. *monticola* washed down to richer soil and more favorable surroundings.

Gray Herbarium, Harvard University.

A NEW GOLDENROD FROM THE GASPÉ PENINSULA.

By M. L. FERNALD.

While ascending the River Ste. Anne des Monts in Gaspé County, Quebec, Prof. J. F. Collins and I found in the gravelly alluvium of the river, about midway between the sea and the Forks, scattered plants of a handsome and to us quite unfamiliar *Solidago*. The occurrence of the plant only as isolated specimens, amongst the everywhere abundant *Solidago elongata*, on the floodplain of the river, suggested very strongly that it had washed down from one of the alpine tablelands or ravines of the Shick-shock Mountains, and we naturally hoped soon to find the real home of the goldenrod. This hope was encouraged by our finding near by and under similar conditions isolated plants of *Arabis alpina*, *Lychnis alpina*, *Vaccinium ovalifolium*, and various other species which we knew to abound in certain regions of the Shick-shocks.

Such exploration as we were able to carry out in the mountains, however,—the study of a limited portion of Mt. Albert—showed us only two alpine goldenrods, *Solidago multiradiata* Ait. and *S. decumbens*, Greene, both abundant in their respective areas, but clearly distinct from the plant seen in the valley below. This plant, known as yet only from the valley of the River Ste. Anne des Monts, is apparently a unique species of the *Thyrsifloræ* nearest allied to *S. multiradiata* and the anomalous plant described by Dr. Gray from the Mogollan Mts, in New Mexico, as *S. multiradiata*, var. *neo-mexicana*. From the former polar species which abounds



Fernald, Merritt Lyndon. 1905. "An Alpine variety of *Cnicus muticus*." *The Ottawa naturalist* 19(9), 166–167.

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