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CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD A
FLORA OF NEVADA. NO. 5.

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SANTALACEAE OF NEVADA

by

F. R. FOSBERG

November 1, 1940.

Issued by

The Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction,
Bureau of Plant Industry,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

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Work Projects Administration of Nevada,
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Collaborator

University of Nevada.

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SANTALACEAE OF NEVADA

By F. R. Fosberg

Semiparasitic herbs, shrubs or trees (ours an herb); leaves entire, stipules none; flowers perfect or unisexual, perianth of one series of 4-5 lobes, stamens as many, inserted in the edge of a disk; ovary inferior or partially superior, one-celled with free central placenta and few ovules suspended from it; fruit indehiscent, one-seeded, a drupe or nut.

1. COMANDRA Nutt.

Herbaceous root-parasites, glaucous, branching underground or at least near base, also near apex, stems striate; leaves alternate, lanceolate or narrowly elliptic, sub-fleshy, acute or obtuse; flowers 3-4 mm. long, perfect, whitish, in terminal or axillary clusters, 5-parted; perianth parts ovate, disk 5-lobed, anthers included, on short filaments, style one, stigma minute; fruit a drupe with thin flesh, soon drying, constricted above into a neck crowned by the calyx.

One species in Nevada.

1. COMANDRA UMBELLATA (L.) Nutt. Gen. 1: 157. 1818.

Thesium umbellatum L. Sp. Pl. 208. 1753.

Comandra pallida A. DC. Prodr. 14: 636. 1857.

Herb 1-4 dm. tall, glaucous, flowers in terminal, more or less corymbosely arranged clusters, fruit globose, 5 mm. in diameter, sometimes slightly elongate.

The differences used by various authors to separate C. pallida, when looked for on specimens, seem to be non-existent or highly inconstant.

Nevada: Elko, White Pine, Lincoln and Clark Counties.