

## OLD AND NEW LOCALES IN THE MAINE FLORA:

Botanical excursions in Maine during 1972 and 1973 have resulted in the discovery of plants long forgotten or unreported for many years, as well as some new plants not previously reported for the state.

*Habenaria leucophaea* (Nutt.) Gray. Crystal Bog, Crystal Station, Aroostook County. The Prairie Fringed Orchid was first discovered at Crystal Bog at the turn of the century. This is the only known location for this rare orchid in New England. It was collected by O. W. Knight on July 30, 1906, and by M. L. Fernald on August 24, 1907, and on August 13, 1909. No further collections were made until July 18, 1955, when Ted Wells and A. S. Pease collected *H. leucophaea* for the New England Botanical Club. On that occasion they reported seeing twenty or more plants.

The late Byron Hand of Caribou, records the following observations in his diary: July 25, 1959 — Twenty-one plants seen; July 21, 1960 — Five plants seen; 1961, No record; July 26, 1962 — No plants seen; July 31, 1963 — Three plants seen; July 31, 1964 — One plant seen.

On July 16, 1972, Ted Wells of Milton, Massachusetts, and I found six plants in flower in the open part of the bog. The orchids stood in shallow water. On a subsequent visit to the same area this past summer I did not find any plants.

*Woodsia obtusa* (Spreng.) Torr. Pease Mountain, Cornish, York County, August 9, 1973. While crossing the exposed ledges on the southwest side of the mountain, I came across many large clumps of this unusual fern growing in crevices with *Woodsia ilvensis*. (*Woodsia obtusa* had been found in Maine only once before, over thirty years ago, in Winthrop, Kennebeck County.)

Pease Mountain is a contact metamorphic formation in which many calcium bearing and associated minerals can



be found, such as calcite, vesuvianite, diopside, and essonite garnet. This formation would account for the varied and unusual plants found here. The primary forest trees are *Ostrya virginiana* and *Tilia americana* with an occasional *Juniperus virginiana* var. *crebra* at the base of the mountain. The forest floor is open and rocky with thousands of *Hepatica americana* growing everywhere. Other plants of interest found on Pease Mountain are *Asplenium platyneuron*, *Asplenium Trichomanes*, *Hystrix patula*, *Carex platyphylla*, *Epipactis Helleborine*, *Geranium Robertianum*, *Arabis laevigata*, and *Conopholis americana*. *Hystrix patula* and *Arabis laevigata* are also new to the county.

*Diplotaxis tenuifolia* (L.) DC. Gilead, Oxford County, October 6, 1973. This European mustard, commonly called Wall Rocket, was found growing in railroad ballast one mile from the Shelburne, New Hampshire, line. This plant had never before been found in the state. According to Seymour's "Flora of New England", *D. tenuifolia* had not been collected in New England since 1912.

*Kalmia latifolia* L. Bear Den Road, Wells, York County. Mountain Laurel is one of the rarer plants found in this state. Most of the known stations previously reported have now disappeared. One of the better known occurrences was in the town of Wells. At one time *K. latifolia* could be found growing in six different areas within the town. It was last reported from Wells on June 23, 1955, when Dr. Ann Perkins led the Josselyn Botanical Society members to one such area.

Early in the fall of 1973 I was fortunate enough to meet a man from Wells who knew of an existing stand of Mountain Laurel. Following his directions, on November 10, 1973, Christopher Campbell of Orono and I found the area he described. The plants were growing in low, wet, maple woods with yews. The *Kalmia latifolia* densely covered approximately two acres. Other interesting plants growing in the immediate area were *Rhus vernix* and *Lindera benzoin*.

Specimens of the species mentioned above have been deposited in the herbaria of the University of Maine and the New England Botanical Club. Photographs were deposited in lieu of specimens in the case of *Habenaria leucophaea*.

LESLEY M. EASTMAN  
OLD ORCHARD BEACH,  
MAINE 04064



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