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RAPISTRUM IN NORTHERN NORTH AMERICA

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WHILE botanizing with Harold Trapido on the gravelly shore of Métis Bay, Matane County, Quebec, on August 24, 1937, I collected an unfamiliar crucifer. Search in Gray's *Manual* and in Marie-Victorin's *Flore Laurentienne* failed to reveal the identity of the plant. Only after considerable investigation did I finally recognize it as a member of the Old World genus, *Rapistrum*, characterized by the indehiscent, two-jointed siliques. The plant was *R. rugosum* (L.) Allioni. This species was reported by Britton and Brown (1897) and by Porter (1903) from Northampton County, Pennsylvania, and from ballast about seaports; by Knowlton and Deane (1916) from the Boston District; by House (1924) as an occasional ballast plant about New York City and on Staten Island; and by Groh (1933) from Montreal.

To determine the present status of *Rapistrum* as a weed in the northern United States and Canada, I secured all the information available from specimens in several eastern American herbaria. In this study, I am indebted for the loan of specimens and for reports on collections to the authorities at the Gray Herbarium (GH), the Missouri Botanical Garden, the New England Botanical Club (NEBC), the University of North Carolina, the New York Botanical Garden (NY), the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, the United States National Herbarium (US), and Cornell University (CU); also to Dr. Herbert Groh, Botanist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Review of the available evidence indicates that three

species of *Rapistrum* have been collected as weeds in North America and that the genus has been found in six states and two Canadian provinces.

In his monograph of the genus, O. E. Schulz (1919) recognized three species. I have followed him in maintaining the three species, but am doubtful concerning the specific distinctness of *R. hispanicum* and do not consider the variations of *R. rugosum* worthy of nomenclatorial recognition. The following key, showing some of the characters by which the species are separated, is adapted from Schulz.

- A. Lower joint of the silique stout, scarcely more slender than the upper; beak conical, short, 0.5–1 mm. long 1. *R. perenne*
- AA. Lower joint of the silique much more slender than the upper; beak filiform, elongate, 1–5 mm. long B
- B. Fruiting pedicels 1–6 mm. long, enlarged upwards, 0.75–1.5 mm. thick, suberect 2. *R. rugosum*
- BB. Fruiting pedicels 6 mm. long or more, slender, not enlarged upwards, 0.5 mm. thick, more or less recurved . 3. *R. hispanicum*

1. *RAPISTRUM PERENNE* (L.) Allioni. This has been reported by Groh (1933) as securely established as a field weed in the region of Grenfell, Saskatchewan. Groh has discussed the characteristics of this species and methods of control.

2. *RAPISTRUM RUGOSUM* (L.) Allioni. Weed in waste places and on ballast. QUEBEC: Métis, Matane Co., *R. T. Clausen & H. Trapido*, 3127 (CU); also reported from Montreal by Groh (1933). MASSACHUSETTS: Boston, *C. E. Faxon* (GH); Charlestown, Suffolk Co., *C. E. Perkins* (NEBC). NEW YORK: New York, *A. Brown* (GH). NEW JERSEY: Jersey City, *A. Brown* (NY). PENNSYLVANIA: Easton, *T. C. Porter* (GH). CALIFORNIA: San Francisco, *M. A. King* (US1434864). OREGON: Linnton, Multnomah Co., *W. N. Suksdorf* 1703 (GH).

3. *RAPISTRUM HISPANICUM* (L.) Crantz. Ballast plant. OREGON: Linnton, Multnomah Co., *W. N. Suksdorf* 1920 (GH).

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