

A DARK-HOODED VARIANT OF *ASCLEPIAS AMPLEXICAULIS*.—*Asclepias amplexicaulis* Sm. is a strikingly-formed Milkweed, with a solitary (rarely 2 or 3), long-peduncled, ample umbel, and crisped-margined, broad, glaucous leaves. It is familiar in dry, open situations in the eastern United States. Normally, its hoods are pinkish, or flesh-colored. Small,¹ however, describes the hoods as "maroon." It seems odd, therefore, that while this term is hardly apt for the usual hood color of the usual colonies of the species, it can, with tolerance, be applied to the dark-colored hoods of a certain population I encountered on August 1, 1954, in the upland pine-sand country of southwestern North Carolina, at Lake Osceola, Hendersonville, Henderson County. No other specimens of *A. amplexicaulis* were noted nearby, and the only other asclepiad seen in the vicinity was *A. incarnata* L., abundant on the lake shores a few rods away. A single specimen of this aberrancy was collected, later deposited in the New York Botanical Garden Herbarium. This specimen exhibits no deviation from typical *A. amplexicaulis* in any character other than hood coloration. Technically, this color approaches Ridgway's² chip of "Dahlia Carmine." For a more immediately practical concept, the color of the hoods of this variant quite fairly approximates the well-known, living flower color of *Trillium erectum* L.

The literature on *A. amplexicaulis* seems to be free of reference to flower color variation, but I am apparently not the first to encounter the present deviation. Mr. Joseph Monachino, of the New York Botanical Garden, who, incidently, verified my specimen, wrote me that he once encountered a "dark-purple hooded" plant in New Jersey. Similarly, Mr. Roy Latham, of Orient, New York, informs me he has seen dark-hooded plants on Long Island. It appears, therefore, that there exists a wide-ranging color form of *A. amplexicaulis*, wherein the usual anthocyanic pigmentation of the hoods is grossly intensified, the flowers (crown) thus appearing dark maroon-purple in life, more vivid and showy than typical plants. The dark form has not been adequately collected, and, therefore, awaits acquisition of supporting material for its proper delineation. Therefore,

¹ SMALL, J. K. 1933. Manual of the Southeastern Flora. p. 1070.

² RIDGWAY, R. 1912. Color Standards and Nomenclature. Pl. XXVI.

field workers are asked to watch for dark-hooded *A. amplexicaulis*, and to collect specimens with proper notations. I would be very grateful to learn of any such observations and collections.

The hood color of most herbarium specimens of *A. amplexicaulis* is a meaningless strawy hue. Occasionally a dried specimen turns up in which the hoods have turned a deep plum shade. My specimen turned this color on drying. Yet, with all the variables to consider, this can hardly be taken to indicate a pattern. It is especially deplorable, that there is rarely a collector's note on flower color with these herbarium specimens. Because flower color is so useless in identifying dried Milkweeds, Carr³ prepared an asclepiad key to circumvent this character. Happily, the color of my aberrant specimen will be preserved. The living plant was photographed in color, and a print was deposited with the specimen. In addition, for comparative purposes, a color photograph of a normal pinkish Long Island plant was included.—LEONARD J. UTTAL, 1258 BEACH ROAD, RIVIERA BEACH, FLA.

SCOTCH HEATHER.—In the town of Hartland, in the northwestern part of Hartford County, Connecticut, at an elevation of 1200 feet, there is a good stand of *Calluna vulgaris*, which extends over an area of about an acre. Since it is rather unusual to find this shrub in such a location, which has very little protection from the winter cold, the writer attempted to trace the history of the introduction of the plant to this part of Connecticut. Mr. L. E. Pearson, a forester in Connecticut, first noticed it when looking over the woodland of the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Sturman.

Most of the following information was obtained by the Sturmans in conversation with local inhabitants of the area. The present Sturman farm was owned by one John Schwaller and his wife, who came to America from Alsace-Lorraine in the 1870s and settled on the property in Hartland. It is reported that the original seeds of the present stand of heather were sent in a letter from Mrs. Schwaller's mother who told her daughter that the shrub would be valuable for winter forage for the cows.

³ CARR, K. 1942. A Key to North American Asclepiads. *Castanea* 7: 1-7.



Uttal, Leonard J. 1955. "A dark-hooded variant of *Asclepias amplexicaulis*." *Rhodora* 57, 336–337.

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