

in the township of Hampstead. Here the plant forms a dense mass of vegetation in all the shallow parts and is even present to the bottom in some places where the water is from 10–15 feet deep. In his words the situation seems to be “frightening because of the plants explosive quality of growth”. Dr. Sawyer reports that the weed has now spread into the township of Atkinson, but that there is some doubt about its being yet in Derry. Motor boats cut plants into pieces and serve as excellent agents of distribution; before long the entire pond except the deepest parts, will be invaded.

The rapid spread of *Cabomba* in Island Pond had caused such concern to cottage owners along the shore that a bill specifically aimed at its control was introduced at the meetings of the 1957 State Legislature. Before public support becomes organized against *Cabomba* it would seem desirable to record it now as part of the New Hampshire flora if only as a very undesirable alien. — A. R. HODGDON, DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY, UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DURHAM.

THE STATUS OF *HYPERICUM PROLIFICUM*. — Attention must be called once again to the unnecessary changing of the name of the widespread North American plant long known as *Hypericum prolificum* L. In 1948 Fernald and Schubert (*RHODORA* 50:167–168) decided, after study of the Linnaean specimens, to replace this epithet with the relatively unused *H. spathulatum* (Spach) Steud. After study of what they called a “vast amount of herbarium-material” they stated that they could find nothing which “can be identified unquestionably” with the type in the Linnaean Herbarium.

There are five sheets of the plant in question in the Linnaean Herbarium (photographs of these specimens are in the Gray Herbarium). Sheet number 943.20 was arbitrarily selected as the type by Svenson (*RHODORA* 42:9–10, 1940). He regarded this specimen as representing “*H. prolificum* in the accepted sense” but considered it as being somewhat aberrant in having “unusually revolute” leaves. This condition, he stated, “can be approached in any large series of specimens of *H. prolificum*.” Fer-

nald and Schubert concurred in Svenson's choice of sheet number 943.20 as the type of *H. prolificum* L. They did not agree, however, that this specimen is merely an atypical plant of the widespread North American species. The revolute leaves were considered by them to be an "extreme variation" which "seems to us to indicate a differentiation more basic." Not being able to equate sheet number 943.20 with any of the material available to them, they revived Spach's epithet. Some four years later Svenson (RHODORA 54:205-207, 1952) re-emphasized his previous contention that the Linnaean specimen "represents merely an aberrant condition, perhaps ecological, of the generally accepted *H. prolificum*."

During the preparation of a monographic study of *Hypericum* section *Myriandra* (which includes the woody species of the genus in eastern North America) I have observed the species in question in the field at numerous stations and have examined more than one thousand sheets of herbarium material. From these observations I believe that all five specimens (sheets number 943.20 through 943.24) in the Linnaean Herbarium represent the plant long known as *H. prolificum* L. The flowers and inflorescence of specimen number 943.20 are very similar to those of the plant called *H. prolificum* L. Stamen length (ca. 7.5 mm.) and petal length (ca. 8.5 mm.) fall well within the limits of this species — a fact also noted by Fernald and Schubert. The "extreme variation in leaf characters" (i.e. revolute leaves) of this specimen appears to be due to wilting of the leaves either as the result of long drought or insufficient pressure during the drying procedure following collection. These inrolled leaves have been seen on specimens from throughout the entire range of the species in question. Many specimens (e.g. *Svenson 13000*, Russell Co., Va.) came from plants which grew on the thin soils of limestone rocks. Such habitats are often very dry during portions of the summer. The leaves of *H. prolificum* respond to these drought conditions by inrolling their margins. Numerous other specimens (e.g. *Davidson 2604*, Appanoose Co., Iowa) appear to have wilted some before pressing, since both inrolled and flattened leaves are present.



Adams, William P. 1959. "The status of *Hypericum prolificum*." *Rhodora* 61, 249–250.

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