

Torrey and Gray, in their Flora <sup>1</sup> published one of Nuttall's manuscript names, *Lathyrus ornatus*. Specimens of Nuttall's original collection are in the Gray Herbarium, and in the herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. They are marked in Nuttall's handwriting, "*Lathyrus* \* *ornatus*, Kansa prairies." This appears in Torrey and Gray's Flora as "*Kamassa* prairies," but in the copy now in the library of the Gray Herbarium there is a marginal note made by Dr. Gray, changing *Kamassa* to *Kansa*. Mr. Bayard Long, after comparing the type specimens of *Vicia stipulacea* Pursh and *Lathyrus ornatus* Nutt. in the herbarium of the Philadelphia Academy, reports to us, "I should say that they are unquestionably identical!"

Without further discussion, we proceed to make the new combinations which are necessary:

**LATHYRUS stipulaceus** (Pursh), n. comb. *Vicia stipulacca* Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 739 (1814); *Lathyrus polymorphus* Nutt. in greater part, Gen. N. Am. Pl. ii. 96-7 (1818); *L. ornatus* Nutt. ex T. & G., Fl. N. Am. i. 277 (1838).

**L. STIPULACEUS** (Pursh) Butters & St. John, var. **incanus** (Smith & Rydb.), n. comb. *L. ornatus* Nutt., var. *incanus* Smith & Rydb. Bot. Sem. Univ. Nebr. pt. 21, 64 (1895); *L. incanus* (Smith & Rydb.) Rydb. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, xxxiii. 144 (1906).

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

## A PRAIRIE NEAR ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN.

HENRY ALLAN GLEASON.

THE original land survey of Washtenaw County, Michigan, now on file in the office of the Register of Deeds, describes a tract of land about six miles north of Ann Arbor as "plains." Several other small areas are described as "prairies," and it is a matter of some botanical interest to ascertain what the original vegetation of such areas was. In every case investigated so far, the so-called prairies have been found to be bogs. Probably the word prairies was suggested to the surveyor by the considerable expanse of level bog covered thickly with *Carex filiformis*.

<sup>1</sup> Torrey and Gray, Fl. N. Am. i. 277 (1838).



The plains, on the other hand, occupy an area of rolling topography, so that their name was probably suggested by the vegetation. The older inhabitants of the region verify this idea, and state that it was originally completely treeless. At the present time it is almost completely under cultivation, and several small groves of native trees occur. The prairie vegetation with which it was formerly covered has disappeared almost completely. A few species still occur along the roadsides, such as *Andropogon furcatus*, *Desmodium illinoense*, *Silphium terebinthinaceum*, *Coreopsis tripteris*, and *Heliopsis scabra*. Further search at other seasons would doubtless reveal others.

Just north of this area there is still preserved a small tract of grassy marsh, about two acres in extent and in almost original condition. This marsh resembles a hydrophytic prairie closely in general appearance, and includes a number of prairie species in its floristic composition.

The wetter portion of the tract is dominated chiefly by *Sorghastrum nutans* and *Sporobolus heterolepis*. The former is a common member of prairie associations farther west, although its distribution ranges eastward to the Atlantic coast. *Sporobolus heterolepis* is listed in manuals as extending east to Connecticut. It is abundant in the prairies of Iowa and adjacent states, is rare in Illinois, and is not listed at all in Beal's Flora of Michigan. With these two grasses is a mixture of other herbaceous species. Some of these are common in Michigan bogs and swamps, as *Sarracenia purpurea*, *Amphicarpa monoica*, *Paranassia caroliniana*, and *Phragmites communis*. Others are equally typical of hydrophytic prairies in Illinois, as *Gentiana procera*, *Liatris spicata*, *Oxypolis rigidior*, and *Solidago ohioensis*, while *Tofieldia glutinosa* suggests the shores of the Great Lakes.

In the drier portion of the area *Sporobolus heterolepis* and *Andropogon furcatus* are dominant. The latter, the well-known blue-joint grass, is typical of the mesophytic prairies of the Middle West. Other prairie species in this portion are *Thaspium aureum*, *Muhlenbergia mexicana*, *Solidago ohioensis*, *Helianthus grosseserratus*, *Phlox pilosa*, *Aster novae-angliae*, *Silphium terebinthinaceum*, *Andropogon scoparius*, *Cypripedium candidum*, *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Liatris spicata*, and *Desmodium illinoense*. Four species common in most Michigan bogs also occur: *Potentilla fruticosa*, *Eupatorium purpureum* var. *maculatum*, *Aspidium thelypteris*, and *Lilium philadelphicum*.

The peculiarity of the small tract, accordingly, lies not so much in



the species represented as in their general grouping and the appearance of the area. The almost complete absence of shrubs, the dominance of grasses, and the level topography combine to give it a strong resemblance to a hydrophytic prairie of northern Illinois. Indeed it may be assumed that this area represents a relic colony of prairie plants, persisting from a time when prairies occupied a wide extent in southern Michigan, and now somewhat mixed with various marsh species which have immigrated in recent times from the neighboring swamps and bogs.

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## REMARKS ON SEVERAL NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF ALOPECURUS.

HAROLD ST. JOHN.

A THOROUGH study of abundant material and dissections of spikelets from each specimen have made it clear to the writer that *Alopecurus geniculatus* L. and *A. aristulatus* Michx.<sup>1</sup> have constant characters and should be treated as distinct species:

*A. aristulatus* Michx. is a native of northern Europe, Asia, and in America from the region of the Gulf of St. Lawrence south to Maryland and west to the Pacific slope. It has a short straight awn attached to the back of the lemma midway between its top and base. The awn is included in or slightly extruded beyond the glumes. Mature spikelets measure from 2–2.2 mm. in length.

*A. geniculatus* L., a native of northern Eurasia, has a long exserted twisted awn attached near the base of the lemma, usually one quarter of the distance from its base to its summit. Mature spikelets of this species measure 3 mm. in length. The drawings in Britton & Brown's

<sup>1</sup> *A. fulvus* Sm. Eng. Bot. xxi. 1, 467 (1805) is synonymous with *A. aristulatus*, and is often taken up for it on the basis of having been published in 1790, as the first volume of Smith's English Botany was, but volume xxi in which the original description and plate appeared was published in 1805. *A. aristulatus* was published by Michaux in his Fl. Bor.-Am. i. 43 (1803).



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