

The species is known only from the type collection. Only a few of these plants were seen. They grew on the road embankment of a highway which was scarcely five years old, indicating a relatively short age and perhaps a weedy tendency. The surrounding country is a high, intermontane desert plain of interior, or in places karst, drainage, with fine calcareous subsaline or alkaline soil. The plain is a vast prairie-dog town. It lies in the rain shadow of the high Cerro Potosí (ca. 12,500 ft.) and adjacent mountains, to the east.

The closest relationship of this species seems to be to one of the "subspecies" of *Haplopappus lanceolatus* (Hook.) T. & G., as treated by H. M. Hall (The Genus *Haplopappus* . . . , Carn. Inst. Publ. 389, pp. 114-120, 1928) showing reduction of the "inflorescence." But that our plants are substantially distinct is evident from a study of herbarium specimens and of Hall's work, and is attested to by the specialist in the genus, Dr. Ray C. Jackson of the University of Kansas, who kindly examined isotype material.

The type locality and surrounding area were searched in the fall of 1960, but no further plants of this species were found. It seems desirable to place the species on record even though it is known only from the one collection. This collection was made during field study in northeastern Mexico supported by the National Science Foundation through NSF-G9234 at the Plant Research Institute, The University of Texas, and carried out under the direction of Dr. Calvin McMillan. The Latin diagnosis is the work of Hannah Croasdale. — MARSHALL C. JOHNSTON, THE PLANT RESEARCH INSTITUTE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN.

CONTEMPORARY NOTES ON POWELL'S EXPEDITIONS IN THE WEST¹. — From the book's foreword we learn that this is a supplement to a chapter [ten] of Prof. Watson's *Illinois Wesleyan Story: 1850-1950* (Ill. Wesleyan Univ. Press, 1950) prepared by his widow, Julia S. Watson. Had not this journalism instructor retrieved these reports of the per-

¹*Professor Goes West: Illinois Wesleyan University — Reports of Major John Wesley Powell's Expeditions: 1867-1874*. Edited by Elmo Scott Watson. Illinois Wesleyan Univ. Press, Bloomington, 1954. 138 pp. Sold exclusively by Frank Glenn, bookseller, 627 E. 46 St., Kansas City, Mo. \$3.00.

sonnel, routes, and general results of the various expeditions from contemporary newspaper accounts, they would rest unnoticed in the files of the *Chicago Tribune*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Western Mountaineer*, etc., and the forgotten issues of the Illinois Wesleyan *Alumni Journal*. Our botanical interest in this book centers around ascertaining more exact localities for the plant collections made on the various surveys of Major Powell and his associates, than those recorded in the literature (e.g. *Amaranthus powellii* S. Wats.). The reader will be only partially successful on this score but here are recorded now in more accessible form the names of the persons who accompanied Powell and some information on their itineraries. For example, the precise identity of Mrs. Almon Harris Thompson (*née* Ellen Powell), the sister of Major Powell, is established as the object of commemoration in the name *Astragalus thompsoniae* S. Wats.; the early Illinois years of George Vasey are alluded to; random notes are woven into the reports of Francis Marion Bishop (1843-1933), a student of Powell who later became professor of natural science at the University of Deseret, then politician, judge, and bailiff. Incidentally, the answer to my query on the captaincy of Bishop (*Rocky Mountain Naturalists*, 165) is answered by Ralph V. Chamberlain, *Life Sciences at the University of Utah: background and history* (Salt Lake City, 1950), a useful collateral reference book for the *Professor Goes West* and in general for the history of biological exploration in the Far West.

An index is sadly missed and Prof. Watson made no exhaustive search in the Illinois Wesleyan University records to learn the full identity of all the persons mentioned in the narrative. However, for an unhurried story of Major Powell and his parties of students in the Old West here is good reading. Certainly these expeditions were among the first field laboratory attempts in this country which set off a succession of college-sponsored excursions. — JOSEPH EWAN, TULANE UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS, LA.



Ewan, Joseph. 1961. "Contemporary Notes on Powell's Expeditions in the West." *Rhodora* 63, 179–180.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/14534>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/189311>

Holding Institution

Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

Sponsored by

Missouri Botanical Garden

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.