

A NOTE ABOUT AN ALLEGED DISCUSSION OF JUNIPERUS

John F. Cornman

In the November 1947 issue of this Journal there appeared an article (1) about investigations I have made in the taxonomy of the genus Juniperus. Since I have not established a reputation through taxonomic publications, I feel obligated to discuss briefly the nature of the material reviewed by vanMelle, the validity of a serious allegation, and, in the interest of objectivity, to present a paragraph not quoted by vanMelle.

Faramount is the fact that the paper under discussion is a thesis submitted to the Cornell University Graduate School. Two copies are required by the Faculty of the Graduate School and, after being catalogued, they are deposited in the University archives. While one of the copies is made available to interested research workers, the paper itself has no more significance than any other unpublished manuscript.

Since I have not published on Juniperus, no defense of unpublished taxonomic details is necessary. The intricacies presented by vanMelle in the November paper are not new material, and thus do not alter my personal opinions on the technicalities. It is intended that my own observations will be published as a series of papers on taxonomic and related problems in the genus.

The thesis manuscript contains no comment on vanMelle's completed book (2), for it was not published until later. We await a discussion of that work by a competent and disinterested reviewer.

On page 354 of his November paper vanMelle states that I have attached "vanMelle type labels to sheets not so designated by me". Regardless of the intent, these words are an accusation of forgery. VanMelle has cited the thesis pages (280,298) on which appear photographs of the allegedly mutilated sheets. There the interested taxonomist will see routine annotation slips with my own name conspicuously printed in black typeface.

Credits for assistance in the preparation of a voluminous paper are traditionally rendered in the Preface. Since I shall not again have occasion to publish what I said there, I quote the pertinent passage:

"Mr. P. J. vanMelle of the Poughkeepsie Nursery has pointed out many cogent facts about cultivated Junipers, both in the field and in correspondence. This assistance was continued long after it became evident that our viewpoints were widely divergent. Rather strong criticisms are made here of Mr. vanMelle's treatment of the J. chinensis group. Such disagreement with so good a friend and guide is regrettable. It is directed solely at his interpretations and treatment. The writer retains a

great respect and admiration for Mr. vanMelle's ability as a plantsman, for his knowledge of his particular group, and especially for his patient good nature."

- (1) vanMelle, P. J. in Phytologia 2:353-363, 1947.
- (2) vanMelle, P. J. Review of *Juniperus chinensis* et. al. New York, April 1947.

NOTES ON POLYGONUM. III

J. F. Brenckle

Polygonum Exsiccatum (Avicularia) Fascicle 1, issued in January 1947, is the first of a series to be issued at irregular intervals. There will be 36 copies of this exsiccatum, the specimens of each number to be as much alike as possible and to be collected on the same date and at the same place. The specimens have been selected to bring together forms that are often mistaken for each other and also to group species for a phylogeographical study and classification which is to be published later. Several new species and forms are introduced, specimens of which in this fascicle may be considered as co-type material.

The exsiccatum is being distributed to active collaborators and some larger herbaria. Contributions to this series are solicited.

List of species and forms in Fascicle One:

- No. 1. Polygonum interior new species, forma vernalis.
- No. 2. Polygonum interior new species.
- No. 3. Polygonum interior new species, forma rostratum.
- No. 4. Polygonum interior var. Turneri Brenckle new variety.
- No. 5. Polygonum ramosissimum Michx., forma vernalis.
- No. 6. Polygonum ramosissimum Michx.
- No. 7. Polygonum ramosissimum Michx., forma rostratum.
- No. 8. Polygonum latum Small, forma vernalis.
- No. 9. Polygonum latum Small.
- No. 10. Polygonum prolificum (Small) Robins. var. autumnale Brenckle new name.
- No. 11. Polygonum prolificum (Small) Robins. var. profusum Brenckle new variety.
- No. 12. Polygonum prolificum (Small) Robins. var. profusum Brenckle forma rostratum.
- No. 13. Polygonum achoreum Blake.
- No. 14. Polygonum camporum Meien., forma vernalis.



Cornman, John F . 1948. "A note about an alleged discussion of Juniperus." *Phytologia* 2(10), 401–402.

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