

III. AN INSULAR VARIETY OF *SOLIDAGO SEMPERVIRENS*.

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Our common Seaside Golden-rod, *Solidago sempervirens*, was described by Linnaeus in 1753.¹ His brief characterization applies well to the plant of our northern Atlantic coast, known by him to occur in Canada and New York. He mentioned the "corymbose-panicled flowers," and the "lanceolate, subfleshy, glabrous, but slightly scabrous-margined leaves." His sources of information were: Gron. virg. 97; Corn. canad. 168; Herm. flor. 26; Moris. hist. 3. p. 124. f. 7. t. 23. f. 15; Pluk. alm. 389. t. 235. f. 5.

Of these the work of Jaques Cornut is the earliest and his description and full-page plate are by far the clearest. As the greater part of the description by Linnaeus was drawn from Cornut, we can safely turn to this fuller definition for more points about the species which Linnaeus characterized under the new name *sempervirens*.

Cornut's plate shows several sparsely branched stems arising from the rootstock. The radical leaves are wanting, the cauline are sessile, lanceolate, tapering equally to either end and gradually diminishing in size to the base of or into the inflorescence, which is a loose panicle.

If we turn to the dried specimens in the Gray Herbarium and that of the New England Botanical Club we find *Solidago sempervirens* well matching Cornut's plate from the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the coast to New Jersey, and less commonly to Florida. Along the southern part of our coast, from New Jersey southward, *S. sempervirens* is usually displaced by *S. stricta* Ait. and its variety *angustifolia* (Ell.) Gray.

In the Botany of California² Gray credits *S. sempervirens* to the Pacific coast, characterizing it in these words: "Leaves rather fleshy, lanceolate, entire, the uppermost reduced to subulate bracts of the virgate and rather dense panicle,.... Salt marshes near San Francisco, Bolander. Near the southern boundary, 60 miles east of San Diego, Palmer. Appears to be the same as the Salt-Marsh

¹ L. Sp. Pl. ii. 878 (1753).

² Bot. Calif. i. 319 (1876).

Goldenrod of the whole Atlantic shore down to Mexico. It is a form with small heads (3 lines long), approaching *S. angustifolia* of Elliott."

The interpretation that the plant of the Pacific coast is *S. sempervirens* has now become traditional,¹ but the descriptions of the plant seem to tally exactly with that of *S. confinis* Gray.² This species is separated from *S. sempervirens* on the character, "rays small, not surpassing the disc flowers." In *S. confinis* as in *S. sempervirens* the cauline leaves are divergent, gradually diminishing upward, but the leaves of the former are much narrower, being linear or lance-linear in outline. In the discussion following the description of *S. confinis* Gray cites one of the records he had formerly given for *S. sempervirens* in California: "*S. sempervirens*, Gray, Bot. Calif. i. 319, as to coll. Palmer." The other sheet cited by Gray in the Botany of California: "*Solidago sempervirens* L. Marsh, San Francisco, California, H. N. Bolander, 2249, 1866/7," seems to be typical of the plants since described as *S. sempervirens* in Behr's, Greene's, and Jepson's works. This plant is also *S. confinis*. From this it appears that the presence of *S. sempervirens* on the Pacific coast of North America has yet to be demonstrated.

Among the numerous names reduced by Gray³ to synonyms of *S. sempervirens* L. is *S. azorica* Hochst.⁴ In its flower and fruit characters this plant of the Azores is inseparable from *S. sempervirens* L. but the cauline leaves, on the other hand, are strikingly different in outline. They are sessile, ovate or deltoid-lanceolate, broadest just above the base, and tapering gradually into the blunt, attenuate tip. This may be recognized as

SOLIDAGO SEMPERVIRENS L., var. **azorica** (Hochst.), n. comb. *S. azorica* Hochst. in Seubert, Fl. Azorica, 31, t. X (1844).

Contrasting with this the North American *S. sempervirens* has the cauline leaves linear to broadly lanceolate, widest near the middle and tapering equally to either end.

¹ Behr, Fl. Vicin. San Francisco, 85 (1888); Greene, Flora Franciscana, 373 (1897); and Jepson, Fl. W. and Middle Calif. 476 (1911).

² Gray, Syn. Fl. N. Am. i. pt. 2, 149 (1884).

³ Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. xvi. 192 (1882).

⁴ Hochst. in Seub. Fl. Azorica, 31, t. x (1844).



St. John, Harold. 1915. "An insular variety of *Solidago sempervirens*." *Contributions from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University* (43), 26–27.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.335981>.

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