

Hedysarum occidentale Greene
(Leguminosae), new to Canada¹

Hedysarum occidentale GREENE WAS formerly recorded from the western parts of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, central Idaho, and the Olympic Peninsula of western Washington. The type specimen was collected in the Olympic Mountains of Washington by C. V. Piper in 1890. Examination of herbarium specimens of *Hedysarum* collected by J. A. Calder and K. T. MacKay in 1961, revealed the presence of a population of *H. occidentale* in central interior Vancouver Island, British Columbia. This species has not been recorded previously for Canada by Taylor (1966), Hitchcock et al. (1961), Eastham (1947), Henry (1915) nor by Rollins (1940) who studied the North American species of the genus. The Calder collections represent a northwestern extension of range of this species of approximately one hundred and forty miles.

Rollins (1940) postulated a preglacial connection between the Olympic and Idaho populations of this species through British Columbia. Subsequently they became isolated by glaciation. He was unable to distinguish any significant morphological difference between these eastern and western populations. The occurrence of the population on Vancouver Island raises the question of whether or not this species was actually connected through British Columbia or whether the Olympic Peninsula population actually represents the remains of an arm of the Rocky Mountain population which has become isolated by climatic changes in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. It seems clear that the Vancouver Island population merely represents a northern portion of this coastal arm which has in turn become isolated from the Olympic Peninsula population.

Specimens examined: *BRITISH COLUMBIA*. Vancouver Island: Crest Mtn. on Gold River Road, 49°52'N, 125°52'W,

rare on open rocky knolls in subalpine forest at about 4200', flowers pinkish, *Calder and MacKay 31595*, July 19, 1961; Golden Hinde above Burman Lake, 49°40'N 125°45'W, common on slopes by creek just below treeline at about 4500 ft., flowers pink, *Calder and MacKay 32506A*, Aug. 15, 1961; Golden Hinde above Burman Lake, occasional on west-facing, sparsely vegetated slope in col at about 5700 ft., flowers pink, *Calder and MacKay 32506*, Aug. 15, 1961. These are deposited in the Plant Research Institute herbarium (DAO) at Ottawa.

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JOHN M. GILLET

Plant Research Institute
Canada Department of Agriculture
Ottawa, Ontario
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An Albino Ring-billed Gull from Ontario

ON JULY 2, 1966, Mr. Alf Bunker captured an immature female Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*, in a large colony at Gull Island, Presqu'île, Northumberland County, Ontario. This bird (ROM 97786) was sacrificed by Ian Seddon, Park Naturalist, on 6 July 1966 and donated to the Royal Ontario

Museum. This individual was a true albino having completely white plumage, and the characteristically pink iris, feet, and legs. At the time of preparation, the specimen was heavy with fat and weighed 315.6 grams. Other measurements are as follows: wing (chord), 290.0 mm; tail, 116.1 mm; tarsus, 51.3 mm; bill (from nostril), 14.8 mm; culmen, 36.3 mm; gape, 15.2 mm; gony, 10.5 mm; depth of bill, 11.5 mm. This is the first record of albinism in this species in Ontario and only the second documentation known to me (see M. B. Trautman, 1933, *Auk*, 50:235).

Records of albino Herring Gulls, *Larus argentatus*, (A. O. Gross, 1964, *Auk* 81(4):551; W. P. Nickell, 1964, *Auk* 81(4):560, and Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*, (A. D. Cruickshank, 1940, *Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York* 50-51: 31-32) seem not to be rarities. However, collecting and preserving the specimen seems to be unusual or at least not mentioned in the published papers.

Sight records of "white" gulls, in North America need to be carefully scrutinized as it does not necessarily follow that the bird is an albino. For example, the Ivory Gull, *Pagophila alba*, is completely white and somewhat smaller than the common North American birds of the genus *Larus*. It is quite possible to mistake the Ivory Gull for an albino of another species, especially since accurate estimates of size can not be readily obtained at any distance. However, the Ivory Gull is apparently of rare occurrence in the United States (A. D. Cruickshank, *op. cit.*) and southern Ontario (J. H. Fleming, 1906, *Auk*: 23:442). Still the question arises as to how many white gulls are albinos and identified as another species.

JAMES A. DICK

Royal Ontario Museum
University of Toronto
100 Queen's Park
Toronto 5, Ontario
Accepted April 4, 1967

A note on the homing behaviour of *Peromyscus maniculatus osgoodi*

INDIVIDUAL *Peromyscus* trapped alive, transported various distances and released, frequently return to the original point of capture (Murie and Murie, 1931). Murie (1963), explained such behaviour as random wandering until reaching familiar territory. Kendeigh (1944), Griffo (1961) and Fislser (1966), suggest that homing results from knowledge of more terrain than the usual demonstrated home range. As success in homing decreases with the distance displaced, Griffo (1961) suggests that, as well as a home range, individual *Peromyscus* have a "life range" which he defines as "all the area an animal traverses during its lifetime".

An opportunity to experiment with homing was offered in a study of a *Peromyscus maniculatus* population near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. The study plot consisted of a dense mixed stand of *Carex*, *Agropyron*, *Bromus* and *Stipa* with a closed canopy of *Symphoricarpos*, *Prunus*, *Rosa* and *Populus*. Trap stations were placed in 10 parallel lines 60 feet apart with 10 stations 60 feet apart on each line. All traps were opened and baited at 7 PM and checked at 6 AM of the following morning. Captured mice were removed from the traps, toe-clip number, age, sex and reproductive data were recorded, and the animals were released at the capture station. Moribund animals were removed from the traps, revived and released in the evening of the same day at the station of initial capture.

On the evening of 19 August 1966, one male *Peromyscus maniculatus* (sub-adult pelage) was inadvertently released at a station (no. 86) which was 490 feet from its point of capture at station 21 that morning. The following morning the animal was recaptured at station 21. To



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