

RUBIACEAE

DIODIA TERES Walt. Occasional in dry open soil. Cold Spring Harbor; Valley Stream; Springfield; South of Jamaica; Aqueduct; Sag Harbor; Garden City; Oakdale; Millneck.

OROBANCHACEAE

LEPTAMNIUM VIRGINIANUM (L.) Raf. Occasional in beech woods. Millstone; Queens; Smithtown; Montauk. The above are in my herbarium but I have observed and noted this plant in the following localities: Plattsdale; Roosevelt; South of Hempstead; Bridgehampton, Locust Valley; Bayside.

CONOPHOLIS AMERICANA (L.f.) Wallr. Rare in rich hilly woods at base of trees. Locust Valley. I can find no previous record for Long Island.

COMPOSITAE

SOLIDAGO ASPERULA Ait. Rare on borders of salt marshes and near them. Merrick; Millneck; Point-on-Woods; Bayville; East Islip.

ASTER HERVEYI A. Gray. Rare in dry hilly oak woods and their borders. Lily Pond, Sag Harbor. A few days before discovering this colony Mr. Roy Latham found a colony a short distance south of Lily Pond.

GNAPHALIUM HELLERI Britton. Rare in dry pine barren and oak woods and thickets. Sag Harbor (Latham and Ferguson); Great River.

EUPATORIUM LEUCOLEPIS T. and G. Very rare in sandy swamps and shores. Fore and Aft Pond, Sag Harbor (Latham and Ferguson).

EUPATORIUM SESSILIFOLIUM L. Rare in woods and thickets. Greenvale; Port Washington; Deer Park; Wyandanch; East of Meadowbrook.

EUPATORIUM ALBUM L. Rare in dry pine and oak woods and also in moist soil. Pine barrens at Speonk.

HELENIUM AUTUMNALE L. Rare in swamps but occasionally in large colonies. South of Jamaica; Flushing; Woodside.

HEMPSTEAD, LONG ISLAND.

White-fruited Bane-berries

KENNETH K. MACKENZIE

For many years American botanists were familiar with two species of bane-berry, the first with oval or ellipsoid red berries on slender pedicels in an ovoid raceme, the second with short oval white berries on thick pedicels in an oblong raceme. The first of these appeared in our botanies as *Actaea rubra* (Ait.) Willd. and the second as *Actaea alba* (L.) Miller. Then when

collections began to come in more abundantly from Maine and Quebec and the adjacent country, it was found that plants with white berries, but otherwise agreeing with *Actaea rubra*, were either frequent or occasional there. These plants are apparently albinos (as to berries) of *Actaea rubra*, and have appeared in our botanies, I believe correctly, as *Actaea rubra* f. *neglecta* (Gillman) Robins. I have myself had a field acquaintance with this plant both in northern Maine and in Quebec, and Brother Victorin writes that in Quebec it "is met with apparently in the whole range. It may be frequent or not, but I incline to think it is rather rare." While of the *Actaea alba* of our manuals he says "with us is a much less universal plant. In the District of Montreal it is frequent but much less than *A. rubra*. It is more abundant in the Richelieu Valley. It also occurs in Anticosti."

The history of our American bane-berries began in 1635 in that wonderful early work by Cornut dealing with Canadian plants. He had a plant which he very accurately figured (pl. 77) and which he called *Aconitum baccis niveis et rubris* (p. 76). Morison in 1680 (Pl. Hist. Univ. 2 p. 8, s. 1, t. 2, f. 7) dealt with a plant which he called *Christophoriana racemosa americana baccis niveis et rubris*. This is the same plant as Cornut had. In fact, it looks to me as if Morison's figure was taken from the figure of Cornut.

When Linnaeus came to deal with the matter in 1753 (Sp. Pl. 1:504) he had no specimens. (Jackson in Proc. Linn. Soc. Suppl. 1912 p. 28.) He simply cited Cornut and Morison and called their plant *Actaea spicata* var. *alba*.

Miller in the eighth edition of his Gardeners Dictionary, which appeared in 1768, published his *Actaea alba*. He cited Morison, but he did not cite Linnaeus, and it is not correct therefore to write *Actaea alba* (L) Miller. Miller grew the plant, but unfortunately no specimens of his plant seem to have been preserved. At least, Dr. Rendle writes that there are none in the British Museum, where other specimens from Miller are preserved. His description however calls for a plant "racemo ovato."

In the previous (7th) edition of his Gardeners Dictionary published in 1759, Miller says he also received seeds of another *Actaea* with red berries from North America but that these did

not grow and "I do not know whether it be a distinct species, or only an accidental variety."

Both the illustration by Cornut and the illustration by Morison represent a plant with slender pedicels and having an ovoid raceme and ovoid or ellipsoid berries. The only definite points to go on with Miller are his phrase "racemo ovato" and his reference to Morison's figure. In other words, Cornut, Morison, Linnaeus and Miller all seem to have been dealing solely with *Actaea rubra* f. *neglecta*. Not a bit of evidence has appeared that they had the plant with thick pedicels and an oblong raceme appearing in our manuals as *Actaea alba*.

We must then apply names. This is not an easy matter. One can follow the historical development of our knowledge of this species and say that as *Actaea alba* was the first binomial applied to our bane-berry with slender pedicels, it should be known by that name, and that the ordinary red-fruited plant should be known as a form. On the other hand, one can follow nature and say that the red-fruited plant is undoubtedly the specific type, and that the first name applied to it (*Actaea rubra*) should be adopted, although published after *Actaea alba*. In this case one would treat the plant of Linnaeus and of Miller as a form of *Actaea rubra*. My own preference is for the second course here indicated.

For the white-fruited plant with thick pedicels and an oblong raceme there is available the very appropriate name *Actaea pachypoda* Ell. (Sketch Bot. 2:15. 1821.)

NEW YORK.

New Plants from Oregon

MORTON E. PECK

In working over the collections that have been accumulating for many years in the herbarium of Willamette University, a number of apparently undescribed forms have come to the writer's attention that call for recognition. The following is a partial list of these. The type specimens will be deposited in the University of Oregon herbarium.



Mackenzie, Kenneth K. 1928. "White-fruited Bane-berries." *Torrey* 28(3), 51–53.

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