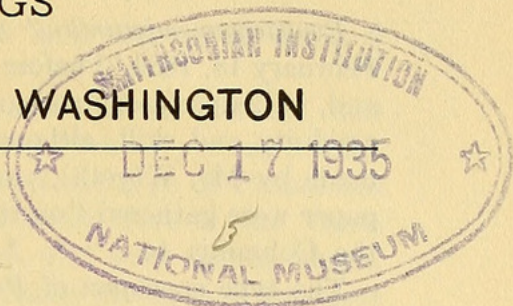


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---



NOTES ON THE TYPE LOCALITY OF *PENTSTEMON*  
*MICRANTHUS* NUTTALL.

BY WILLIAM A. DAYTON.

---

There has been some disagreement among botanists as to the specific status of *Pentstemon micranthus* Nutt., many holding it to be a synonym of *P. procerus* Douglas. Mr. Ivar Tidestrom of the Bureau of Plant Industry, who is consulting expert of the Forest Service in matters of plant identification, is rather inclined to the opinion that *Pentstemon micranthus* is a valid species. Certainly, at least, the sheets in the Washington office herbarium of National Forest range plant specimens which Mr. Tidestrom has referred to *Pentstemon micranthus* show the smallest flowers of all the material there of this large genus; the name *micranthus* is, at least, well chosen.

In his "Scrophulariaceae of the Central Rocky Mountain States"<sup>1</sup> Dr. Pennell has the following note (p. 365) on *Pentstemon micranthus*:<sup>2</sup>

"*Penstemon micranthus* Nutt. Journ. Acad. Phila. 7:45. 1834. 'Hab. In the valleys of the Rocky Mountains, near the sources of the Columbia (N. B. Wyeth).' Type, collected by Wyeth, July 11, in Fremont County, Idaho, or in Lincoln County, Wyoming, seen in herbarium of Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia."

Recently Dr. Pennell very kindly presented the writer with a photograph of the type specimen of *Pentstemon micranthus* and this, at the suggestion of Mr. Tidestrom, has been mounted on a U. S. Museum sheet and deposited in the U. S. National Herbarium. I have had a "Plants of Wyoming" label prepared for this mount and this appears to call for some explanation.

---

<sup>1</sup>Pennell, Francis W., Vol. 20, Part 9, Contributions from the U. S. National Herbarium, 1920.

<sup>2</sup>Remanded to synonymy under *p. procerus*, *op. cit. supra*.



*Pentstemon micranthus*<sup>1</sup> was described by Nuttall in a paper<sup>2</sup> "read February 18, 1834,"<sup>3</sup> before the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences and, in his prefatory paragraph, the author pays tribute to the collector's assiduity and skill, although "this was the first essay of the kind ever made by Mr. W(yeth)," and adds that all the plants referred to in the paper were gathered "on the returning route of Mr. W. from the Falls of the Columbia to \* \* \* the Missouri."

The type specimen of *Pentstemon micranthus*, as Dr. Pennell (*loc. cit.*) indicates, was collected by Wyeth "July 11," the year not stated. But, from Nuttall's comments in his paper (*loc. cit.*), the year of collection was obviously 1833.

On his return (eastbound) trip in 1833 Wyeth records in his Journal<sup>4</sup> that, on July 9th, "We entered Pierre's Hole<sup>5</sup> and camped on the N. W. side of it." The following day, July 10th, he "moved 12 miles S. E., crossing a difficult swamp and camped about 2 miles from the battle ground of last year with the Gros Ventres."<sup>6</sup> On July 11th he records that he "Started early and made 3 miles E. S. E. to the foot of the mountains, then 8 miles E. S. E. to the summit, then 6 miles E. to Lewis Fork and 1 mile E. across it at the same place we crossed last year. \* \* \* The river is here much choked up with islands and heaps of drift wood and a

<sup>1</sup>Originally published (p. 45, *op. cit. infra*) as *Pentstemon micranthum*.

<sup>2</sup>Nuttall, T., "A Catalogue of a Collection of Plants made chiefly in the Valleys of the Rocky Mountains or Northern Andes, towards the sources of the Columbia River, by Mr. Nathaniel B. Wyeth." Journ. Phila. Acad. Nat. Sci. VII, pt. 1, 1834. N. B.—The "B." in Wyeth's name is obviously a typographical error.

<sup>3</sup>Incidentally it is highly probable that the man "who," as Bancroft says, "more directly than any other man marked the way for the ox-teams which were \* \* \* to bring \* \* \* Americanized civilization \* \* \* across the roadless continent," Wyeth himself, was in the audience. Nuttall was his personal friend and we know, from his correspondence, that Wyeth was in Philadelphia on this date.

<sup>4</sup>"The Correspondence and Journals of Captain Nathaniel J. Wyeth, 1831-6." Oreg. Univ. Dept. Econ. and Hist., Oreg. Hist. Soc. Contr., "Sources of the History of Oregon," Vol. 1, Pts. 3-6, 1899. Edited by F. G. Young, Sec. Oreg. Hist. Soc.

<sup>5</sup>The U. S. Geological Survey reports that "Pierre's Hole" is what is now called the Teton Basin, Teton County, eastern Idaho, contiguous to the western Wyoming boundary.

<sup>6</sup>Captain Wyeth indicates this in his map of his "First Expedition" as taking place south of the "Trois Tetons." In his Journal, the entry for July 4, 1832, he somewhat cryptically describes his celebration as follows: "Decamped and at noon crossed the divide and drank to my friends with mingled feelings from the waters of the Columbia mixed with alcohol and eat of a Buffaloe cow. \* \* \* Three of my men are sick." On July 5th they go 20 miles along a wooded river. At 2 o'clock, July 6th, they stop on Lewis River (Snake River), "within 20 miles of the Trois Tetons," the river here running "nearly S. and \* \* \* divided over a bottom about 2 miles and into 8 streams very rapid and difficult." This very well describes the course and condition of the Snake River as it skirts "Jackson Hole" to the west, in the elk country, near the present borders of the Teton National Forest. On July 7th they apparently go through Teton Pass, on the 8th they reach "the plain" and, after a 10-mile march, "the rendezvous" (shown on Wyeth's map) of trappers and Indians, a very considerable encampment. Wyeth stayed here nine days, when all but eleven of his men deserted him. On July 17th the Captain and his men go southeast towards a pass through the mountains and the next day occurred the battle with the Indians. The fighting evidently took place near and along the present Idaho-Wyoming border.









Dayton, William A. 1926. "Notes on the type locality of *jPeAzr^^emon m/cra/ir/iw5 Nuttall*." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 39, 11–13.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/107491>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/43569>

#### **Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

#### **Sponsored by**

Biodiversity Heritage Library

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

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

Rights Holder: Biological Society of Washington

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>.