

PROCEEDINGS
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TWO NEW SPECIES OF POISONOUS SUMACHS
FROM THE STATES OF RHODE ISLAND
AND FLORIDA.

BY EDGAR A. MEARNS.

Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., recently directed my attention to marked variations in the *Rhus*, known as Poison Oak and Poison Ivy growing in the vicinity of his residence in Virginia. As I justifiably considered myself to be practically immune to the poison of these plants, comparisons were commenced, in the course of which it developed that the *Rhus radicans* of Linnæus (Poison Ivy), an extremely variable species of the North, meets the range of *Rhus toxicodendron* of Linnæus (Poison Oak), a southern species, in Virginia and the District of Columbia. *Rhus toxicodendron* Linnæus appears to be confined to the Southern States. It is a shrub having crenately-lobed, very pubescent leaflets.

Seeds of *Rhus radicans* which I collected in Virginia, in November, 1901, were found to differ from those gathered on the island of Rhode Island, near Newport, during the same month, as well as from those labelled *Rhus toxicodendron* Linnæus by Mr. E. S. Steele, whose specimens (Nos. 364,079 and 364,080, U. S. National Herbarium) were collected in the District of Columbia, and kindly lent me, together with other specimens of *Rhus*, by the authorities of the United States National

Museum. To others I am indebted for much additional material from private herbaria; also to Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., and Mr. Charles Louis Pollard, for special assistance. In the National Herbarium is another entire-leaved form, from Florida, related to the Rhode Island species.

Prof. Amos Eaton, in the 4th edition of his Manual,* describes the "poison vine" or "poison ash" under the specific name *toxicodendron*, and gives the following: "Var. *radicans*, (poison ivy) stem climbing and rooting: leaflets broad, entire, or with scattered teeth. Var. *quercifolium*, (poison oak) erect, low: leaflets variously sinuate-lobed. Var. *microcarpon*, leaflets oblong-oval, long-acuminate, sub-rhombic: fruit very small." Neither these names and descriptions nor those of later writers, *Toxicodendron vulgare* Miller included, are applicable to the entire-leaved littoral forms occurring on Rhode Island and in Florida, which are described below.

***Rhus littoralis* sp. nov.**

RHODE ISLAND SUMACH.

Type.—From Newport, Rhode Island. No. 403,300 U. S. National Herbarium. Specimen consisting of three parts: (1) a botanical sheet with branch, leaves, and fruits (September 10, 1901); (2) a quantity of drupes; (3) central stem (all from the same plant), 2 meters in height, cut in lengths of a little less than 4 decimeters each (November 28, 1901). Collected by the author. Original number, 233.

Description.—An erect, woody shrub, 2 to 4 meters in height, with stem 1 to 2 dm. in circumference. Wood fine-grained and white. Stem terete, with scattered aerial rootlets near the ground; branches longitudinally ridged; bark gray or reddish brown on new growth; young shoots and buds covered with a brown pubescence. Leaves thick, petioled, 3-foliate, resinous spotted, and with brownish pubescence on veins; petiole of leaf 50 to 200 mm., of lateral leaflets 1 to 10 mm., and of the terminal leaflets 10 to 30 mm.; leaflets oblong-lanceolate, inequilateral, rounded at base, and acute at apex, with margin entire, 50 to 100 mm. in length by 20 to 60 mm. in breadth. Flowers green, in loose axillary panicles. Fruit a globose drupe, consisting of a flattened, striated, 1-celled stone; a persistent, white, lobed pericarp; with a greenish or yellowish fugacious outer investment which at first is very pubescent and afterwards smoothish. In plate III are shown the dessicated pericarps of four species as they appear in winter after the epicarp has separated

*A Manual of Botany for the Northern and Middle States of America, etc., Albany, 1824, p. 428.



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