

*Myosotis  
scorpiodes*

# FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

ISSN: 1180-1417

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1993  
Volume 6(2)

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## UPCOMING FIELD EVENTS

THERE IS STILL SPACE ON THE FOLLOWING FIELD TRIPS FOR 1993

Essex County	July 25
Lake Opinicon Aquatics	August 21
Ferns at Chaffey's Locks	August 22
Leslie Street Spit	October 2

See your calender of field events for more details.  
Contact Irene McIlveen (519)-853-3948 for further information.  
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THE FBO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND WILL BE ON  
SEPTEMBER 25-26, 1993 AT THE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS IN HAMILTON.  
DETAILS OF THE AGM WEEKEND ARE ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.



**FIELD  
BOTANISTS of  
ONTARIO**

**NEWSLETTER**

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The FBO is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 for those interested in botany and conservation in the province of Ontario.

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**ILLUSTRATIONS**

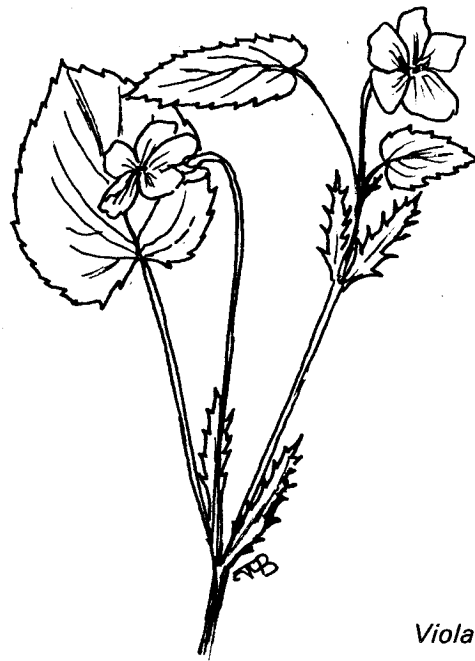
Drawings in this issue of the FBO Newsletter are by Sarah Beaton and Jane Bowles.

## TRIP TO SYDENHAM RIVER CORRIDOR

In 1979 Dr. Douglas Hoffman and Larry Lamb identified the Sydenham River Corridor as an Environmentally Sensitive Area for the Lambton County Planning Department (Lambton County, 1979). In 1985 the corridor was designated a Carolinian Canada Site by Dr. Paul Eagles and Tom Beechey, partly because of the rare clams in the river. In 1990 the site was expanded into Middlesex County, and in 1992 Dr. Jane Bowles conducted a life science inventory in the site under contract with, and sponsored by, the St Clair Region Conservation Authority. Funding was obtained from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Inc., Imperial Oil (through Lambton Wildlife Inc. and the FON) and Canada Trust and its customers through the Friends of the Environment Foundation.

On May 29, 1993 about 12 field botanists spent a day in the Sydenham River Corridor with Jane Bowles. We met by the river and Jane gave each of us a summary of her report to the St Clair Region Conservation Authority which included a list of the rare vascular plants found in the Corridor. We drove to high ground, and leaving the cars near a beautiful patch of Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*), we plunged into upland forest carpeted with False Mermaid (*Floerkea proserpinacoides*). *Carex hirtifolia* (with hairy leaves) and *Carex amphibola* (with big, plump perigynia) were soon identified. Jane said that Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) is a Carolinian indicator as well as Running Strawberry-bush (*Euonymus obovatus*). *Carex jamesii* (L,O,C)\* at first glance looks a bit like *C. pennsylvanica*, but the two or three almost spherical perigynia are well below the summit of the plant and the plant base is brown, not red. It was quite common, and we got to know *C. woodii* (also rather like *C. pennsylvanica*), with bright red-brown leaf sheaths). We had a little discussion about spelling. *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (Red Ash) is clearly named for the State, but what of *Carex pennsylvanica*? The Latin "pen" (almost) and "sylva" (woods) seem to suggest that it grows at the edge of the woods. *Carex arctata* (red bases and tapered perigynia) and *C. rosea* were also seen.

We observed that the flowers of Striped Violet (*Viola striata*) (L,O,C) are creamy white on the back, while those of similar Canada Violet (*V. canadensis*) (L) are tinged with purple on the back. When Jane said "If you see Striped Violet together with *Carex jamesii* you can expect to find Black Maple (*Acer nigrum*)", we looked up and there was the obliging tree!



*Viola striata*

As we climbed down the hillside we saw Canada Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum canadense*), Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) and Purple Spring Cress (*Cardamine douglassii*). The confusion over Cut-leaved Toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), Hybrid Toothwort (*Cardamine x maxima*) and Two-leaved Toothwort (*Cardamine diphylla*) was cleared up (?). They hybridize.

Jane added a little fillip to her earlier statement that small Jack-in-the-pulpits (*Arisaema triphyllum*) are male and become female as they grow larger. They become male again if stressed!

\* (M, L, O, C) = Rare in Middlesex County (Oldham, 1993), Lambton County (Oldham, 1993), Ontario (Argus *et al.*, 1982-1987), Canada (Argus and Pryer, 1990).

Jumpseed (*Polygonum virginianum*) was easily recognized by its large ovate leaves with the dark blotch in the centre. On the hillside we saw a lot of Creeping Fragile Fern (*Cystopteris protrusa*) (M,L,O,C) first discovered in Canada in 1985 by W.G. Stewart in Elgin County. It can be told from *Cystopteris tenuis* (Makay's Fragile Fern) by the yellowish, hairy horizontal rhizome just below the soil surface, the larger size and the green stipe. Jane identified leaves of Squirrel Corn (*Dicentra canadensis*) by digging out the corn-kernel-like tubers. Hint: of the three broad-leaved sedges *Carex plantaginea*, *Carex careyana*, and *C. albursina*, only *C. albursina* has a yellow-green (not red) base and does not, in early spring, have green leaves from the previous year.

We saw the inevitable mass of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) which gets established in disturbed soil, but Rock Cress (*Arabis laevigata*) (L) was a life first for me. On a hillside we admired a rare clump of Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpurea*) (M,L,O,C). We would have been happier about the identification if there had been some flowers or old fruit.

As we came to bottomland, Jane exulted over *Lithospermum latifolium* (American Gromwell) (L,O,C), *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia Bluebells) (M,L,O,C), with mats of decumbent big pale green leaves, and *Arisaema dracontium* (Green Dragon) (M,L,O,C), in decline in Ontario because of habitat loss and scattered populations resulting in paucity of genetic diversity).

On the floodplain were *Laportea canadensis* (Wood Nettle), the only nettle in Ontario with alternate leaves, *Eupatorium maculatum* (Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed) with hollow stems, *Cicuta maculata* (Water Hemlock) described as "deadly poisonous" by Newcomb (1977), *Rudbeckia laciniata* (Cut-leaved Coneflower), *Cardamine bulbosa* (Spring Cress) and *Staphylea trifolia* (Bladder Nut). We also saw Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Taenidia integerrima*), Wild Yam (*Dioscorea quaternata*), and Canada Violet. In an old meander channel we waded through masses of young *Ambrosia trifida* (Giant Ragweed) and on a slightly higher terrace we examined *Smilax illinoensis* (Carrion Flower) (L).

A highlight of the day was the biggest tree in Ontario, a Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) with a diameter at breast height (dbh) of 262 cm. At about 2 m above the ground the huge, sound, single trunk divides into four massive trunks. The tops are broken off so that this famous tree can not be seen above the surrounding forest. Nearby was a Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) with a dbh of 57 cm. On our way up the hillside we waited patiently while Wayne McShane and Jane Bowles photographed a violet that they thought was *Viola x eclipses* (M), a hybrid of *V. conspersa* and *V. striata*.

The weather was cool and sunny and everyone had a good time. Thank you, Jane.

#### References:

- Argus G.W. and K.M. Pryer 1990. Rare vascular plants in Canada, our natural heritage. Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, 191 pp.
- Argus, G.W., K.M. Pryer, D.J. White and C.J. Keddy (eds) 1982-1987. Atlas of the rare vascular plants of Ontario. Parts I-IV. Botany Division, National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa. Looseleaf.
- Bowles, J.M. 1992. A life science inventory of Sydenham River Corridor Carolinian Canada site. Prepared for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, Strathroy, Ontario. iv + 62 pp. + appendices.
- Eagles, P.F.J. and T.J. Beechey. 1985. Critical unprotected natural areas in the Carolinian Life Zone of Canada. Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Heritage Foundation and World Wildlife Fund Canada. 400 pp.
- Lambton County. 1979. Lambton County preliminary Environmentally Sensitive Areas survey. Lambton County Planning Department and Experience '79 and '80, Ontario Ministry of the Environment. 243 pp.
- Newcomb, L. 1977. Newcomb's wildflower guide. Illustrated by Gordon Morrison. Little Brown and Company, Toronto. 490 pp.
- Oldham, M.J. 1993. Distribution and Status of The Vascular Plants of Southwestern Ontario. February 1993 Draft. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Aylmer. 150 pp.

Dorothy Tiedje

## AN ESTABLISHED STAND OF OHIO BUCKEYE IN PETERBOROUGH COUNTY

On July 19, 1973, following a phone call, I drove the short distance from my home to the Roger Charlton farm on the 6<sup>th</sup> Line of Smith Township, Peterborough County near the Otonabee River (UTM Grid Reference 173189 on Map 31D/8). I was going to see the second occurrence of Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) in Peterborough County. Invited to look around the property, I followed a fencerow to a small stand of trees with a damp hollow tucked between them.

I was not looking for anything in particular, but my eye was caught by a small tree with palmate leaves. It was obviously a Buckeye (*Aesculus* sp.), but apparently not the only one I knew at the time, the introduced Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). A cursory look showed that there were one or two other trees in the area. I was fully occupied with other matters at that time and I almost forgot about it.

For some reason it came back to my mind in the spring of 1992. A visit with an amateur botanist friend, Tom Atkinson, on May 12 showed that the trees were still there, some larger than I remembered, but there were many more. We tried to estimate the numbers, looking in the small woodlot, around the wet sandy hollow and along a fencerow which connects the stand with the farm buildings. The trees in question were in bud, with developing leaves and small heads of flowers. They were abundant and came in various sizes from small seedlings to mature specimens. We stopped counting at 50.

A check in some identification guides seemed to indicate the trees were Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*). The range given, did not include Ontario, but was south and west of the Ontario border at Windsor, although scattered stands have been reported from the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and elsewhere. An established stand, possibly native, was found on Walpole Island, Ontario in 1981.

We were able to find some dried-out fruit cases buried in the leaf litter. These showed spines; the Ohio Buckeye is the only species apart from the Horse Chestnut with these .

A further visit on May 22 found the trees in full bloom. On May 25 a small party from Trent University, including Professors of Botany Roger Jones, Christine Maxwell and Kate Frego went with me. We noted the yellowish petals with red markings, the long stamens, some fertile, other apparently sterile, the prominent groove on the bud scales, and the number and shape of leaflets in the palmate "hand". All the field marks seemed to match the descriptions for Ohio Buckeye. Several other species, mostly growing on the south Atlantic coast where three species hybridize, and one species I have seen in California, could be eliminated by comparing these features.

A look in the literature showed that Ohio Buckeye is sometimes called the Fetid or Stinking Buckeye, but none of our party could detect anything especially unpleasant in buds, leaves, flowers or broken twigs or bark.

On May 28 the group again visited the site with Dr. Paul Aird, Head of Forestry at the University of Toronto. Conversation with Mr. Charlton revealed that the parent tree, still thriving at the farmhouse, was there in 1932 when he bought the farm. It had, he thought, been planted by the previous owner, now dead. At the same time a Horse Chestnut was planted and it still exists. Pollinators were busy at each, with the Ohio Buckeye being visited by numbers of bumblebees, not noted at the Horse Chestnut.

The question was raised as to whether the two species, which are similar in many ways, might have hybridized, thus possibly accounting for the hardiness and viability of the stand and the lack of scent in the twigs and leaves of the Buckeye. At the same time there seems to be no discernable variation among the trees.

The seeds had seemingly been distributed along the fencerow and beyond by small animals, almost certainly Eastern Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). These animals plant numerous seeds of the Horse Chestnut on my property

each year, and many germinate, but we could find no seedlings of this species from the tree at the Charlton farm.

In this connection it is worth noting that, in its native range, the Ohio Buckeye is often extirpated since it is said to be poisonous to livestock. This appears not to be a problem with the squirrels. Mr. Charlton agreed that the plants did not grow in the open pastures because these are regularly mown or grazed by cattle. The latter do not normally eat the nuts or seedlings, but they will do so when pasture grass is scarce during droughts. He has never noticed any effects on the health or digestion of his cattle.

#### References:

- Brockman, C.F. 1979 Trees of North America: a field guide to the major native and introduced species north of Mexico. Golden Press, Racine, Wisconsin.
- Burns, R. and B.H. Honkala. 1990 Silvics of North America. Volume 2, Hardwoods. Agriculture Handbook 654, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Doug Sadler

## UPDATE ON ENDANGERED PLANTS

On April 22, 1993 three plant species were added to the Canadian list of wildlife species at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Two of these plants are found in southern Ontario. Wood Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) is restricted to two confirmed colonies in southern Ontario totalling a few hundred plants and is now listed as ENDANGERED. American Columbo (*Frasera carolinensis*) is known from six sites in southern Ontario which seem to be secure, but it appears extirpated from eight other sites as a result of habitat loss. It has been designated as VULNERABLE. The third species, Western Fringed Prairie Orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*) occurs in only one population in Manitoba. It is now listed as ENDANGERED in Canada. This brings the list of Canadian plant species at risk to 76 (23 endangered, 25 threatened, 28 vulnerable).

## NOMINATIONS FOR FBO EXECUTIVE

Under the FBO executive, nominations for positions on the executive should be submitted to the nominating committee AT LEAST TWO WEEKS prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations should be in writing and confirm that the permission of the person being nominated has been obtained. Nominations should be directed to:

Donald Kirk  
FBO Past President  
75 Queen Street  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1E 4R9

## TROUBLE WITH ASTERS AND GOLDENRODS

There are plants called Cowbane and plants called Dogbane; Asters and Goldenrods ought to be called botanist's banes. It's easier said than done, but try not to feel bad if you have great difficulty identifying all of the numerous species of Asters and Goldenrods (*Aster* and *Solidago*). You are in the company of some of the greatest geniuses in the history of the study of botany. No less an authority than Asa Gray once wrote:

"I am half dead with *Aster*. I got on very fairly until I got to the thick of the genus, around what I call the *Dumosi* and *Salicifolia*. Here I work and work, but make no headway at all. I can't tell what are species and [sic] how to define any of them... I was never so boggled... If you hear of my breaking down utterly, and being sent to an asylum, you may lay it to *Aster* which is a slow and fatal poison."

Goldenrods are just as difficult. Fortunately, neither Asters nor Goldenrods will make you sneeze. However, I assume you have heard of, or experienced, the "summer complaint?". Well, identifying Asters and Goldenrods is a late summer and fall complaint of amateur and professional botanists, and may cause similar symptoms.

I no sooner get the Asters and Goldenrods all nailed down in one area of the country, than I go to another area where the same species look different to me. This is because they are different strains or populations, I am told. Not only that, but they have a habit of hybridizing and intergrading. In other words, they get all mixed up. So does my brain.

It is hard enough to sort out all the Asters in one pile and all the Goldenrods in another, but we have still another complication. To dramatize, I present the following fairy tale:

Once upon a time there was a charming Aster named *Aster ptarmicoides*. Nearby, there lived a fair Goldenrod called *Solidago ohioensis*. Lo and behold, one fine day the two got

together and soon there was an heir called *Solidago x krotkovii*. So, guess what? *Aster ptarmicoides* was not an Aster after all, but a Goldenrod, now called *Solidago ptarmicoides*.

If professional botanists can't always tell an Aster from a Goldenrod what chance do mere humans like me have? It's enough to drive one to bird-watching, except that fall warblers are as difficult to identify as Asters and Goldenrods and, at least Asters and Goldenrods stay in one place. Besides, everyone knows that birders have the reputation of being almost as loony as botanists.

A few years ago I was on an autumn field trip in Canada when one of the participants, who was obviously a neophyte naturalist, queried timorously, "You mean, there are many different kinds of Goldenrod?". She was dismayed at the answer and the extent of the new problems it posed for her. Poor woman, we never should have told her. I wonder how she is doing now.

The incident caused me to recall fondly the early years of my life, before the truth about Asters and Goldenrods was revealed to me, when autumn's colours brought forth a euphoric state of relaxed bliss. Now that I call myself an amateur botanist and feel obligated to justify that self-inflicted label, summer's end no longer brings tranquillity to my restive soul. Every fall, when faced with that maddening sea of yellow interspersed with islands of purple and white, I live in a constant state of tension. Sigh!

Kent Glauser





## VASCULAR PLANTS OF THUNDER BAY DISTRICT

Crowe, Joan. 1993. Checklist of Vascular Plants of Thunder Bay District. Revised Edition. Thunder Bay Field Naturalists. \$2.00 (paper). 51 pp. Available from: Claude E. Garton Herbarium, Lakehead University, 955 Oliver Rd., Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 5E1.

This checklist covers the vascular plants, including ferns and allies, of the judicial district of Thunder Bay. This is a large geographical area, including the towns of Marathon, Terrace Bay, Geraldton, Armstrong, Nipigon, and Upsala, as well as the city of Thunder Bay. The list is based largely on the prodigious collecting efforts of Claude Garton, who produced an earlier version in 1984. The present edition contains 1009 species, an impressive total for an area largely contained within the boreal forest region. Of course, urban and agricultural areas around Thunder Bay, tolerant hardwood forests along the southwestern border to the District, and arctic-alpine elements near the Lake Superior shore, add to the diversity of the flora of the District.

The author uses "A Checklist of the Flora of Ontario: Vascular Plants" (Morton, J. K. and J. M. Venn. 1990. University of Waterloo, Department of Biology) as her nomenclatural standard reference, except in the ferns and allies, where "Ferns and Fern Allies of Canada" (Cody, W. J. and D. M. Britton. 1989. Agriculture Canada, Research Branch, Publication 1829/E) was used instead. These are good, appropriate, and recent standard references for nomenclature, so that, although nomenclatural changes occur continually based on new research, very few changes are needed (two that should be made are: *Elymus hystrix* for *Hystrix patula*, *Carex utriculata* for *C. rostrata*). There are a few errors of synonymy/nomenclature that have crept in; for example, *Lycopodium obscurum* is not a synonym of *L. dendroideum*, and *Isoetes lacustris* is not a synonym of *I. macrospora*).

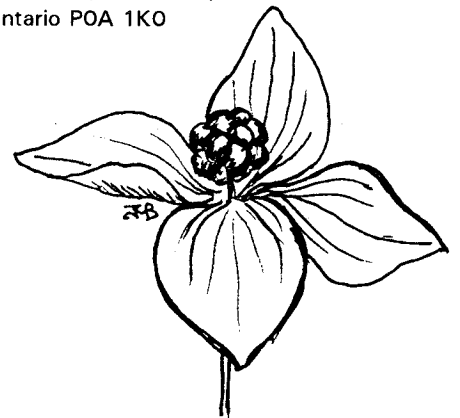
There are a few gaps in the list for which documentation exists (e.g. *Carex gynandra*; Standley, L. A. 1983. Rhodora 85: 229-241). Other gaps, which may be based either on

misidentifications or on differing species concepts, include *Acorus americanus* (which should replace *A. calamus*; Packer, J. G. and G. S. Ringius. 1984. Canadian Journal of Botany 62: 2248-2252), *Lycopodium digitatum*, and *Carex rugosperma*. There are also a few species included on the list that are almost certainly based on misidentifications (e.g. *Carex festucacea*, *Carex nigromarginata*, *Carex normalis*, *Bromus latiglumis*, all southern species).

A personal preference in lists of this sort is the inclusion of the parentage of hybrids, along with their binomials. Parentage of hybrids conveys much more information than poorly known or obscure binomials. Thus, it would be helpful to include, for example, *Lycopodium complanatum* X *tristachyum* with this hybrid's binomial, *L. X zeilleri*, and similarly, *Carex arctata* X *castanea* with *C. X knieskernii*.

All in all, this list is well produced, and, in my experience, the species included on it are generally supported by correctly identified voucher specimens. The next step in the evolution of this list should be the inclusion of status designations within Thunder Bay District, or in ecological units within the District, for each species. I would encourage the author and other contributors to work toward this end for the next edition of the list. In the meantime, this list should be useful to all field botanists, as a source of information on the occurrence of vascular plant species in this part of Ontario.

Bill Crins  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Box 9000, Huntsville,  
Ontario POA 1K0



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## RANGE EXTENSION NOTES

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### *Aster nemoralis* (Asteraceae) new to Hastings County, Ontario

Dallas R. Bader

R.R.#1, Maynooth, Ontario K0L 2S0

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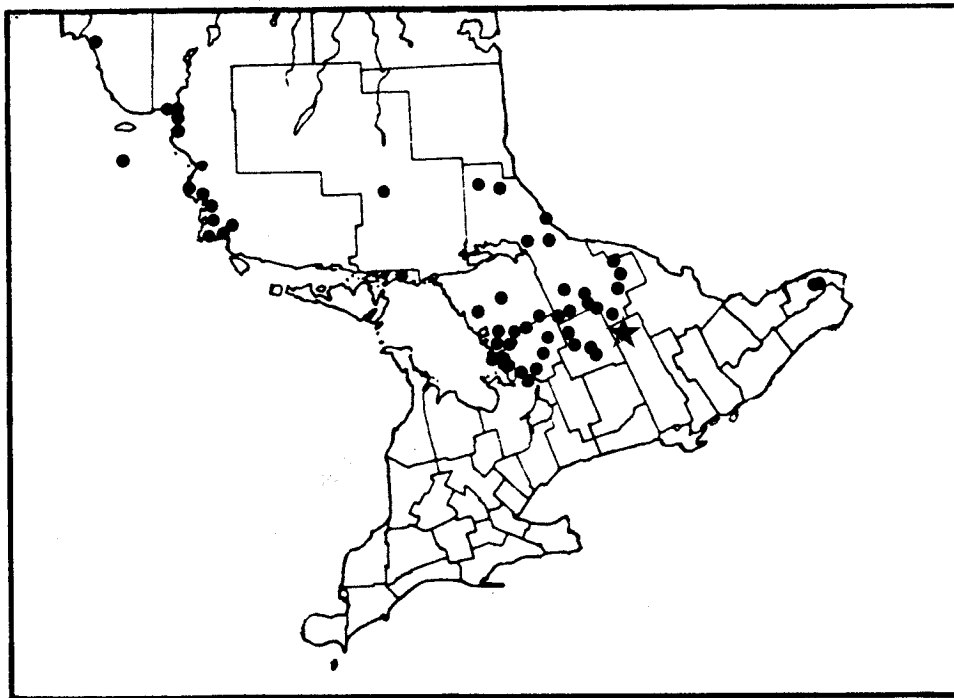
About 4 km south of Maynooth, Hastings County, Ontario is a 40.5 hectare (100 acre) wetland. In the north end of this wetland is a 4.5 hectare (10 acre) lake surrounded by a boggy shore about 15 m wide in most places. *Aster nemoralis* Ait. (Bog Aster) grows and flowers abundantly on this shore. According to Semple and Heard (1987) *Aster nemoralis* has not been reported from Hastings County (Figure 1).

#### Specimen

Ontario, **HASTINGS COUNTY**, Herschel Township, Lot 68 (West of Hastings Road), UTM 698100 (Map 31F/4), 16 September 1988, D.R. Bader # 1251 (DAO).

#### Literature Cited

Semple, J.C. and S.B. Heard. 1987. The Asters of Ontario: *Aster* L. and *Virgulus* Raf. (Compositae: Astereae). University of Waterloo Biology Series No. 30, Department of Biology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. 88 pp.



**Figure 1:** Range of *Aster nemoralis* in Ontario. Adapted from Semple and Heard (1987).  
● previous records; ★ new location reported here.

## *Glyceria melicaria* (Poaceae) new to Hastings County, Ontario

Dallas R. Bader

R.R.#1, Maynooth, Ontario K0L 2S0

I live near a 40.5 hectare (100 acre) wetland about 4 km south of Maynooth, Hasting County, Ontario. In the south end of this wetland is an alder thicket that covers about 0.4 hectares (1 acre). *Glyceria melicaria* (Michaux) Hubb. (Long Manna Grass) grows abundantly under the alders, forming almost solid ground cover in places. According to Dore and McNeill (1980) *G. melicaria* has not been reported from Hastings County (Figure 1).

In addition to showing the Hastings County record, Figure 1 also shows recent specimens at DAO and CAN which were not mapped in Dore and McNeill (1980).

### Specimen

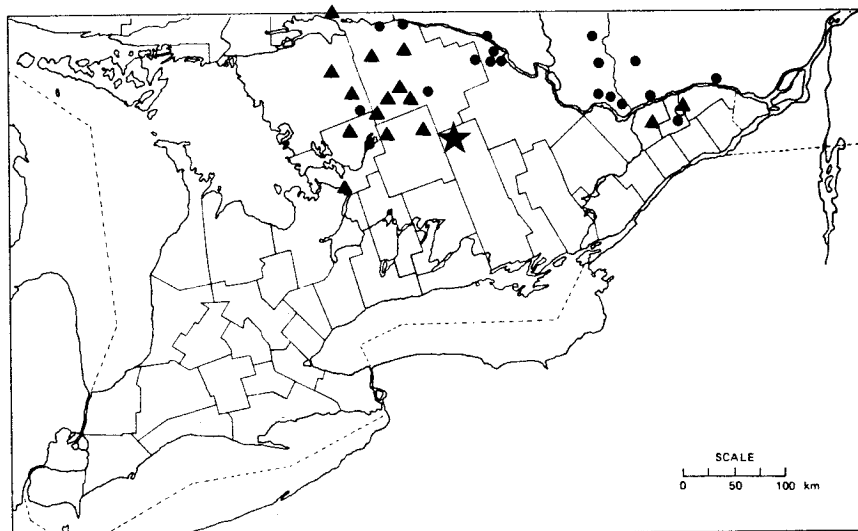
Ontario, **HASTINGS COUNTY**, Herschel Township, Lot 63 (West of Hastings Road), UTM 700093 (Map 31F/4), 11 September 1988, D.R. Bader # 1096 (DAO).

### Acknowledgements

Stephen Darbyshire (DAO) verified the Hastings County specimen and provided photocopies of specimens at CAN and DAO.

### Literature Cited

Dore, W.G. and J. McNeill. 1980. Grasses of Ontario. Monograph 26, Research Branch, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa. 566 pp.



**Figure 1:** Range of *Glyceria melicaria* in Ontario. Adapted from Dore and McNeill (1980). ● records mapped in Dore and McNeill (1980); ▲ additional records based on specimens at DAO and CAN; ★ new location reported here.

***Glyceria x laxa* (Poaceae) new to Hastings County, Ontario**

Dallas R. Bader

R.R.#1, Maynooth, Ontario, K0L 2S0

I live near a 40.5 hectare (100 acre) wetland about 4 km south of Maynooth, Hastings County, Ontario. In the summer of 1980 I made a collection of grasses growing in the south end of this wetland. Among the grasses were several species of the genus *Glyceria*, including *G. canadensis*, *G. grandis*, *G. melicaria*, and *G. striata*. While collecting I noticed, on the edge of an alder thicket, a single clump (a few dozen heads) of a peculiar grass that seemed to combine the characteristics of *G. canadensis* and *G. grandis*. This grass remained a puzzle until I procured a copy of *Grasses of Ontario*, wherein Dore and McNeill (1980) describe such a hybrid, *Glyceria x laxa* (Scribner) Scribner. They indicate that it is known from only three sites in Ontario, none in Hastings County (Figure 1). The specimen has been verified as *G. x laxa* by Stephen Darbyshire of Agriculture Canada, who notes that the specimen has "indehiscent anthers, ovaries not developed, lemmas to  $\pm$  3 mm, mostly 2.5-2.8 mm". A few years later I went back for another specimen of the *G. x laxa*, but I was unable to find it. In the intervening years the alders had grown and proliferated and may have crowded out the clump.

**Specimen**

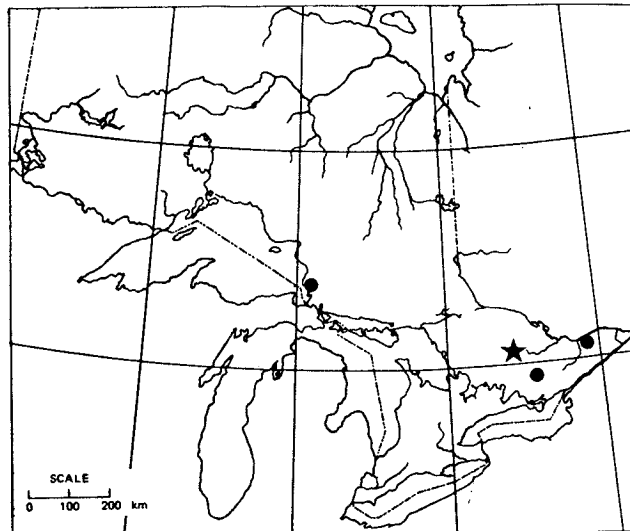
Ontario, **HASTINGS COUNTY**, Herschel Township, Lot 62 (West of Hastings Road), UTM 700093 (Map 31F/4), 31 July 1980, D.R. Bader # 48 (DAO).

**Acknowledgements**

Stephen Darbyshire (DAO) kindly examined and verified the collection.

**Literature Cited**

Dore, W.G. and J. McNeill. 1980. *Grasses of Ontario*. Monograph 26, Research Branch, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa. 566 pp.



**Figure 1:** Range of *Glyceria x laxa* in Ontario. Adapted from Dore and McNeill (1980).  
● previous records; ★ new location reported here.

## ***Carex concinna* (Cyperaceae) new to Peterborough County, Ontario**

**Michael J. Oldham**

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While clambering down a small cliff at Warsaw Caves, where I had been viewing Ontario's most southerly population of *Woodsia glabella* R. Br. (Smooth Woodsia) (Brunton, 1990), I noticed a small sedge growing in the carpet of *Carex eburnea* Boott at the base of the cliff. Closer inspection showed the sedge to be *Carex concinna* R. Br.

*Carex concinna* has not previously been reported from Peterborough County (Riley, 1989; Brunton, 1990), or anywhere else in central Ontario (Riley, 1989). In southwestern Ontario it is known only from Bruce County, primarily on the Bruce Peninsula (Oldham, 1993). In southeastern Ontario it is unknown in the Kingston Region (Beschel *et al.*, 1970), and rare in the Ottawa-Hull Region (Gillett and White, 1978). *Carex concinna* is not known from Algonquin Park (Brunton and Crins, 1992), the Middle Ottawa Valley (Moore, 1972), Haliburton County (Skelton and Skelton, 1991), Muskoka District (J. Goltz pers. comm.), or Quetico Provincial Park (Walshe, 1980). However, as one moves north in Ontario, the species becomes more frequent. It is known from Manitoulin Island (Morton and Venn, 1984), the north shore of Lake Superior (Soper *et al.*, 1989), and the Clay Belt (Baldwin, 1958), and is abundant and widespread in the Hudson Bay Lowlands (Riley, 1990).

This small sedge is a calciphile preferring coniferous woods, cool banks and mossy knolls, and ranges from Newfoundland to Alaska, south to northern New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, northern Michigan, northeastern Wisconsin, South Dakota, Colorado and Oregon (Fernald, 1950; Gleason and Cronquist, 1991). The Warsaw Caves site is one of the most southerly locations in eastern North America. Brunton (1990) attributed the presence of *Woodsia glabella* at Warsaw Caves to the fact that a major post-glacial spillway ran through the site at a time when an arctic or subarctic climate dominated. This explanation may also account for the co-occurrence of *Carex concinna* at the same location.

Among Ontario sedges *Carex concinna* R. Br. is most easily confused with *C. peckii* Howe, from which it can be distinguished by its smaller size and blunt perigynia (those of *C. peckii* have a short beak).

### **Specimens**

Ontario, **PETERBOROUGH COUNTY**, Dummer Township, Warsaw Caves Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, northeast shore of Quarry Lake on the Indian River, just south of Warsaw Caves Conservation Area, 29 May 1993, M.J. Oldham # 14803 (duplicates to be distributed to CAN, MICH, TRTE).

### **Acknowledgements**

Bill Crins, Jane Bowles and Tony Reznicek provided comments on a draft of this note.

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### CONTRIBUTIONS TO RANGE EXTENSION NOTES

We encourage members to contribute reports to this section. The following basic information should be included in a range extension note:

1. Scientific, common and family name of the plant.
2. Precise location of the record.
3. Collection and herbarium information. In general, range extensions should be supported by a specimen deposited in a recognized institutional herbarium. In some cases an identifiable photograph deposited in an institutional herbarium will suffice.
4. Collection date.
5. Significance of the record, e.g. new county record, etc. A map can be used to show the new record(s) in relation to previous records of the species.
6. Notes: this can include remarks on identification, local abundance, habitat, etc.



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