

On the other hand, plants which have run wild, and grow decidedly larger, produce rather showy flowers in abundance, and no cleistogamous flowers ever appear. In an oak woods in the eastern part of Gary, the largest specimens being along the edges of marshes, are several plants with these showy flowers. Such flowers are produced early, the specimens I have before me being dated May 6, 1946. Both ripened fruit, and that, more or less green, was noted June 21, 1946. The majority of the flowers are produced on older shoots, although shoots of the current year may have flowers at or near the base. Cleistogamous flowers, however, seem always to appear on shoots of the current year.

OTHER NOTES: The plant grows from 2-5 feet high, according to Britton & Brown "Illustrated Flora", a maximum of 7 feet according to "Hortus Second". This seems to be true in all the plants I have observed except one, the exception being a giant specimen 3.93 m. tall, more than 5 feet taller than the maximum of other observers. A typical stem from this plant showed 6 growth-rings.

In regard to the berries, the 7th Edition of "Gray's Manual" says "berries small". This is true of many of the fruits of the Hobart specimen, where the branches were heavily loaded; however, variations in size were noted, and the berries on the other plants could hardly be said to be small. Bailey's "Manual of Cultivated Plants" says that berries ripen in late autumn, and berries from cleistogamous flowers do ripen in the fall, but plants with showy flowers begin to ripen fruit even before summer has commenced, and by autumn all fruit has disappeared.

Specimens illustrative of this article have been sent to the Gray Herbarium.

Gary, Indiana.

A VARIETY OF A WESTERN POLEMONIUM IN MINNESOTA.— Since *Polemonium reptans* L., occurring in southeastern Minnesota, has been regarded as the sole representative of the genus in the state, the discovery of a new variety of a western species in the north-central region of the state was not altogether without interest.

The plant first came to the attention of the writer in the winter of 1944 during a showing of a film on Minnesota wild flowers by

Mr. W. F. Kohagen of Hibbing. A tall *Polemonium* in arbovitae swamp, among species peculiar to such habitats, was surprising. On the following June 28, Mr. Kohagen mailed specimens from the colony he had previously filmed in color. His collection consisted only of inflorescences, but it was obvious that the plant in question was very different from the eastern species reaching Lake Pepin and Winona regions.

For adequate study material, the writer made a collecting trip to the colony at Sturgeon Lake, north of Hibbing, on July 2, and another a month later for fruiting specimens. After a considerable study the plants were determined as *P. occidentale* Greene, but they differed from western material by the absence of gland-tipped hairs and larger upper cauline leaves. Moreover, during this study it became clear that the probable garden-escape, locally established in East Duluth, previously reported as *P. occidentale* Greene,¹ must be referred to *P. caeruleum* L.

The finding of the plant seemed to fulfill a quest. It was recalled that several years ago Dr. E. T. Wherry alerted the writer to the probability of occurrence of *Polemonium* in swamp habitats. His study of the specimens resulted in the description of *Polemonium occidentale* Greene, subsp. *lacustre* Wherry. Since, however, the plant would by most conservative botanists be ranked as a geographic variety rather than a true subspecies, it should be called

POLEMONIUM OCCIDENTALE Greene, var. **lacustre** (Wherry), stat. nov. Ssp. *lacustre* Wherry in Am. Midl. Nat. **34** (2): 376, fig. 2, 1945.

The colony is located in a roadside swamp, 3.5 mi. n. of Sturgeon Lake Observation Tower, about 20 mi. n. of Hibbing, St. Louis Co. About an acre in extent, it is the only known station in the state, indicating an isolated eastward extension of the range of a well known western species of wide distribution.—**OLGA LAKELA**, State Teachers College, Duluth, Minn.

¹ Lakela, Olga. RHODORA **40** (475): 280. 1938.



Lakela, Olga. 1947. "A variety of a western *Polemonium* in Minnesota."
Rhodora 49, 118–119.

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