First from north of southern North Carolina.

A. VIRGINICUS, var. TETRASTACHYUS (Ell.) Hack. To the single recorded Virginian station (at Cape Henry; see Fernald & Griscom in RHODORA, xxxvii. 142) add two in NANSEMOND COUNTY: seeping bank of ditch at margin of woods, about 2 miles southeast of Cleopus, no. 9513; dry white sand of pine barrens, east of Cox Landing, south of South Quay, no. 10,944.

ANDROPOGON VIRGINICUS L., var. HIRSUTIOR (Hackel) Hitchc., forma **tenuispatheus** (Nash), comb. nov. *A. glomeratus tenuispatheus* Nash in Small, Fl. Se. U. S. 61 (1903). *A. tenuispatheus* (Nash) Nash in N. Am. Fl. xvii. 113 (1912). *A. virginicus* var. *tenuispatheus* (Nash) Fernald & Griscom in RHODORA, xxxvii. 142 (1935).

Forma *tenuispatheus* seems to be only a glabrous form of the hirsute-sheathed var. *hirsutior*. In making the transfer of the name *tenuispatheus* as a variety to *A. virginicus*, with var. *hirsutior* as a hirsute form, *A. virginicus*, var. *tenuispatheus*, forma *hirsutior* (Hackel) Fern. & Grisc. l. c. (1935), Griscom and I overlooked the fact that as a varietal name *A. macrourus*, γ. *hirsutior* Hackel (1889) has priority over *A. glomeratus tenuispatheus* Nash (1903).

(*To be continued*)

A PELORIC FLOWER IN GERARDIA TENUIFOLIA.—Some years ago a specimen of *Gerardia tenuifolia* with a greatly enlarged and deformed terminal flower was found at Woodstock, Connecticut, by Mrs. Clarence Dextrase and brought to me. I laid it aside, hoping to visit the colony from which it came. This I have not been able to do; but the case of peloria seems worth recording.

In my specimen, now in the Gray Herbarium, all the flowers are normal except the terminal one on the main stem. In it, all the parts are doubled; there are ten calyx-lobes, ten stamens and two pistils. These organs, so far as can be determined without dissection, are normally developed, or nearly so. The corolla, however, not only has twice the usual number of lobes, but is split down one side and opened out, forming a somewhat irregular, nearly rotate perianth 3 cm. in diameter.

Similar pelorias have been reported by Penzig (Pflanzen-Teratologie, ed. 2, iii. 111, 115) in *Digitalis* and *Penstemon*. They seem not to have been previously recorded in *Gerardia*.

In *Digitalis*, the polymerous flower tends to take on the character of a shoot, even developing rudimentary secondary flowers in the axils of separated calyx-lobes or other organs. No such tendency appears in the *Gerardia*.—C. A. WEATHERBY, Gray Herbarium.

VASCULAR PLANTS OF EASTERN ARCTIC CANADA.[1]—Part I of Dr. Nicholas Polunin's "Botany of the Canadian Eastern Arctic" is a welcome addition to the small group of truly comprehensive papers on the boreal American flora. It will be indispensable to anyone concerned with the plant geography or systematic botany of the American arctic. Part I contains the vascular plants, and according to the Foreword Part II will be on fungi, lichens and mosses, Part III on vegetation and ecology, and Part IV on the "Subarctic Regions." The area involves all land "north of the 60th parallel of latitude and east of longitude 95 degrees west, with the exception of Axel Heiberg Island, Boothia peninsula, and the inland parts of Keewatin." The volume begins with a brief account of the history of exploration and a rather comprehensive list of localities from which plant materials are available. The author estimates having seen between 50,000 and 60,000 specimens, scattered among the principal American and European herbaria. The separate specific entities enumerated total 297, to which are added a considerable number of geographic varieties and minor forms. As in most arctic regions, the families most heavily represented are the *Gramineae, Cyperaceae,* and *Compositae*. Fourth in the list are the *Caryophyllaceae*. Following the detailed enumeration of the species there is a summary list with a tabular arrangement of geographic distribution within the area. A large bibliography and a plant-index close the volume.

Dr. Polunin's treatment of the difficult and polymorphic arctic species-complexes is essentially conservative. He has not shown a tendency to "split" excessively, but has given ample recognition to lesser taxonomic units such as varieties and forms. He maintains, throughout his nomenclature, the concept of "Linnaean" species with geographic and other subdivisions of minor rank. Under each species in the catalogue there are only such synonyms as are required to make the list workable with other current papers touching the region. Then comes a brief critical discussion of variations and related matters of systematic interest. The geographic and habitat data are divided into "general distribution," "arctic distribution," "occurrence," and finally a list of cited specimens arranged in a geographic sequence. Four new species, 10 new varieties, and 9 new forms are described.

The book will be valuable not only because it brings up to date the listing of available specimen-material for the study of eastern arctic botany, but also because it contains a remarkably complete survey of the recent literature of the subject. Anyone attempting critical studies of boreal American groups will appreciate this, for the taxonomic literature on our boreal flora has become exceedingly voluminous and

[1] *Botany of the Canadian Eastern Arctic,* by Nicholas Polunin. *Part I. Pteridophyta and Spermatophyta.* National Mus. of Canada Bull. No. 92 (Biol. Ser. No. 24). pp. 1–408. map. 1940.