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## FURTHER LIGHT ON AARON YOUNG JR'S FLORA OF MAINE

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IN 1935, Mr. Arthur H. Norton reviewed the life of Aaron Young Jr. and related what he could find about his botanical survey of Maine. He told of the "Flora of Maine" of which only the first volume ever appeared. At that time Mr. Norton stated that "no copy in the original condition seems to be known in existence today." Recently a copy of this "Flora" has come to light in a rather dramatic fashion. In the summer of 1951 an excellent copy of this "Flora" was purchased in Antwerp and brought back to this country and presented to Miss Adelaide Pearson of Blue Hill, Maine. Realizing that this book was of real value to students of our New England flora, Miss Pearson presented it to the Gray Herbarium on December 5, 1951.

This volume of the "Flora of Maine" has been examined with interest and some description of it seems worth while. It is 20 x 14 inches over all and the leaves are 19½ x 13½ inches. It is bound in cloth with board covers. The first page contains the following: "Flora of Maine, illustrated with specimens from nature, arranged according to the natural system and containing descriptions of all the known indigenous plants growing in the State, giving their generic and specific characters, principal synonyms, places of growth, and time of flowering and occasional remarks, by Aaron Young Jr., Bangor, Samuel S. Smith, Printers, 1848."

In the preface Dr. Young states: "This volume which may be considered as a sample, is now presented, with the flattering hope, that a generous allowance will be made for its unavoidable imperfections, and that it will be accepted (as it is really intended)



as an exhibition of our native wilds; perhaps in future years to display and relate the history of some surviving remnants of Flora, now so universally disseminated."

"The work will be issued in volumes of the present magnificent size, of which, only a few limited number of copies will be obtainable by subscribers. It will consist of about twenty volumes, the last of which, will contain a copious index, embracing, in separate columns, the common and scientific names of each plant."

He continues: "In May 1847 I memorialized the Legislature to that effect, urging that body for an annual appropriation of five hundred dollars for three years, to enable me to make such researches as were deemed necessary, for the accomplishment of the above object. The result is well-known, and although the actual amount requested was reduced to less than half, I have still felt strongly encouraged in the undertaking, and have labored with no small degree of enthusiasm, in the prosecution of the Survey, and in the preparation of an historical herbarium, a work which may justly be conceived as certainly more suitable for the State than the common method from which this very essentially differs."

In spite of this enthusiastic proposal only the first volume was ever published and until this present copy appeared, it had apparently disappeared completely. In the published volume sheets  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 27$  inches are folded and bound to make up the book. The first page contains the name of the plant, remarks as to the time of flowering, uses and often quotations from various authors such as Bigelow, Dewey, Torrey and Emerson whose "Trees and Shrubs of Massachusetts" had been published earlier. On the second page is pasted the actual specimen with its name. The volume is inter-leaved with thin paper.

It is interesting to note that this "Flora" was published the same year in which Gray's Manual first appeared. Jacob Bigelow's "Florula Bostoniensis" had appeared in 1814 in the first edition and Alfonso Wood published his first "Classbook of Botany" in 1845, only two years before the Survey. Of course Gray's Manual was unavailable at that time and apparently Young used Torrey for his authority.

The following is the list of species included in the volume given in the order in which they occur. It is not easy to understand



why just these particular species were selected for inclusion. There are thirty-nine species on thirty-three pages. These include: *Aster acuminatus*, *A. cordifolius*, *Polygala paucifolia*, *P. polygama*, *Antennaria margaritacea*, *A. plantaginifolia*, *Apocynum androsaemifolium*, *Acer pennsylvanicum* [*A. striatum*], *Urtica canadensis*, *Elodea virginica*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Tiarella cordifolia*, *Lonicera ciliata*, *Betula nana*, *B. papyracea*, var. *minor*, *Aralia nudicaulis*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Acer spicatum*, *Cornus canadensis*, *Cerasus pennsylvanica* [*Prunus borealis*], *Trillium erythrocarpum* [*T. pictum*], *T. erectum*, *Chiogetes hispidula*, *Ledum latifolium*, *Vaccinium uliginosum*, *V. Vitis-Idaea*, *Pyrola rotundifolia*, *P. unifolia*, *P. secunda*, *Calopogon pulchellus*, *Orchis orbiculata*, *Melampyrum americanum*, *Uvularia sessilifolia*, *Asarum canadense*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *L. Selago*, *L. lucidulum* and *L. dendroideum*. The names are as he gave them and some of them seem strange to us today, a hundred years after.

In a foot-note in Mr. Norton's article he stated that "Dr. M. L. Fernald informs the writer that there is a set in the Gray Herbarium which has been taken apart and the specimens distributed according to the classification of the Herbarium." I have been unable to find evidence of sheets from this "Flora" in the Gray Herbarium. I have found various specimens collected by Aaron Young Jr. in the Herbarium but with definite labels. They were originally mounted on a light blue sheet and evidently with more than one species to the sheet. So what you now see is a part of one of those blue sheets cut off and pasted to a regular herbarium sheet and with its own label. These labels usually contain the following printed matter: "Botanical Survey of Maine, Mt. Katahdin, Lat. 45° 97', Lon. 69° 30' west, Obs. Elevation above the Sea —, Collected Aug. 1847, A. Young Jr." A few specimens were found that were collected in some other section of Maine. A search in the Gray Herbarium for specimens of the species found in the "Flora" revealed only a small fraction of them. Using a list of Mt. Katahdin plants a search resulted in finding only a very small number of the species of that area. Among these plants were *Arenaria groenlandica*, *Rhododendron lapponicum*, *Briantus taxiflorus* [*Phyllodoce caerulea*], *Cassiope hypnoides* and *Vaccinium uliginosum*.



In the "Flora" itself no data is given for the particular specimens except that in the case of eleven of them Mt. Katahdin is cited. In looking up material on Aaron Young Jr. in RHODORA I found in a survey of the various herbaria in New England by Miss Day, at that time Librarian of the Gray Herbarium, an article in which she stated in regard to the Herbarium at Bates College: "The nucleus of this herbarium was gathered many years ago by the late Dr. Aaron Young Jr." On a recent visit to the Bates Herbarium through the courtesy of Dr. William H. Sawyer Jr. head of the Botany Department, a search was made for Young specimens. What was found were apparently sheets from Volume 1 of Young's "Flora." These sheets had evidently never been bound into a book and had been distributed into their proper place in the Herbarium. There was no identifying mark either of the collector or place of collection or of the date.

This "Flora" is of considerable importance in the history of Maine botany but a number of more exhaustive collections have been made on Mt. Katahdin. As Prof. Fernald (1901) says in RHODORA "Though they brought back the first representative collection of Katahdin plants, they apparently got none of the rarer species, and the data on their labels are unfortunately incomplete."—WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

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