

unknown in *A. riparia* and its immediate allies, is not unprecedented in the subgenus *Euanemone*. Our common Wood Anemone, *A. quinquefolia*, varies from white to crimson-tinged, and the northern *A. multifida*, ordinarily with red flowers, is not rare with white or even greenish sepals.

It is interesting in this connection to note that Mr. Richards collected on Grand River flowers of *Anemone multifida* having as many as fourteen sepals. — M. L. FERNALD.

VIOLA ARVENSIS IN NEW ENGLAND.

B. L. ROBINSON.

THE success with which the little pale-flowered pansy of the Alleghany region has been shown to be a distinct American species instead of the *V. arvensis*, Murr. (or as many authors prefer *V. tricolor*, var. *arvensis*) of the Old World has led students of our violets to the over hasty conclusion that all our violets of this type from Maine to Georgia are of the same endemic species and are to be classed as *V. Rafinesquii*, Greene (*V. tenella*, Muhl., not Poir.). It is, however, a fact familiar to many New England observers that the little yellowish white flowered pansy, locally abundant from southern New England to Newfoundland, instead of appearing endemic, has the habits of an introduced plant. It is seldom if ever found far from dwellings and is chiefly seen in old fields, about dumping places, etc., almost always in soil which has been artificially loosened.

Some months ago Dr. E. H. Eames called my attention to the fact that this violet of New England of which he had observed specimens near Bridgeport, Connecticut, was not the plant of the South and West, now classed as *V. Rafinesquii*. A careful examination of material sent by Dr. Eames and specimens from other sources fully confirms his view.

V. Rafinesquii is a slender delicate plant with peculiar many-parted and palmately cleft stipules of roundish contour. The petals are of a pale blue or lavender tinge shading at the base into yellow, and they are nearly or quite twice as long as the very short sepals. This species is frequent from Eastern New York to Kansas and southward.

The plant of New England, however, is decidedly stouter. The stipules are also deeply cleft but the divisions are less numerous and more pinnate in their arrangement. The flowers are larger, and the petals, which are pale yellow (the upper sometimes with a faint tinge of lavender), scarcely if at all exceed the relatively large sepals. An examination of specimens and plates of the Old World material of related forms convinces me that this is just the plant figured as *V. arvensis*, Murr., in the English Botany, t. 2712, in the Flora Danica, t. 1748, and Reichenbach's Icones Florae Germanicae, t. 4517, figures which are accepted as representative of *V. arvensis*, Murr., by such critical students of Viola as Messrs. Rouy and Foucaud in their exhaustive subdivision of the violets of France.¹

This violet, in America at least, shows no tendency to intergrade with *V. tricolor*, L., nor with *V. Rafinesquii*, Greene.

To date I have seen specimens of *V. arvensis* from the following American localities. NEWFOUNDLAND: on rocky bare slopes of hills immediately back of habitations in the poorer suburbs of St. John's, *Robinson & von Schrenk*, no. 190. MAINE: in an old field, Orono, *Fernald*; in a rich field, North Berwick, *Parlin*, no. 654. MASSACHUSETTS: abundant in an old field, Cambridge, *Fernald*; Medford Street, Somerville, *C. E. Perkins*; Northampton, *Mrs. E. H. Terry*. CONNECTICUT: sandy wastes along the beach, Black Rock, Bridgeport, *Eames*; in a garden (without cultivation), Southington, *Bissell*. NEW YORK: Oak Point, *Buchheister*.

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¹ Fl. de France, iii. 1 to 58.

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