

is said to be very common around Lake Simcoe in Simcoe County, number 21 on the map.

The information also shows that the orchid is found most frequently in open deciduous woods, borders of woods, and on wooded hillsides, particularly along the river valleys. Occasionally it is found in open spaces such as meadows, lawns and gardens. *Epipactis*, like many other Old World introductions, is apparently finding its Ontario home very much to its liking, for it occurs commonly in most of the localities shown on the map, and in a few places becomes frequent enough to be classed as a weed.

During 1947, I received an interesting specimen collected at Cedar Springs, near Hamilton, by Miss Elizabeth Taylor of McMaster University. She describes the plant as having creamy colored leaves and pinkish flowers, instead of the usual green leaves and purple tinged, greenish flowers. Frère Marie Victorin describes apparently similar variations occurring in plants found in Quebec².

I wish to thank all who have assisted in this investigation, particularly Mr. Hubert H. Brown of Toronto, from whose herbarium much material was obtained, and Dr. F. A. Clarkson, also of Toronto, for much pertinent information.

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(1) MACOUN, J. M., The Canadian Record of Science, 1894.

(2) MARIE-VICTORIN, FRÈRE, Flore Laurentienne, Imprimerie de la Salle, Montreal, 1935.

ERIGERON COMPOSITUS Pursh, var. DISCOIDEUS Gray, forma **trifidus** (Hook.), stat. nov. *E. trifidus* Hook. Fl. Bor.-Am. ii. 17, t. cxx (1834). *E. compositus*, var. *trifidus* (Hook.) Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. xvi. 90 (1880).

It is most unfortunate that the rules of nomenclature demand that, because of priority of publication, the name of a trivial and unusual form (var. *discoideus*) must be taken up to include a wide-ranging and locally abundant plant with showy ligules and that the latter has to be treated as a mere form of the almost aberrant state of the inclusive variety. In the Rocky Mountain area, in Arctic America and Greenland, as well as on the Gaspé

Peninsula, the abundant plant is, as noted, the ligulate-flowered one, while the discoid plants are very exceptional ones growing with them. In Brittonia, vi. 242-244 (1947) Cronquist treats plants with leaves "mostly 2-3 times ternate" as var. *glabratus* Macoun (1884), this most inadequately described merely as "Perfectly smooth"—inadequately because the latest monographer of the genus does not use the degree of pubescence or its absence as of importance in the species. By him plants with "Leaves mostly only once ternate" are called a different variety, var. *discoideus* Gray (1862), this variety including the basic *E. trifidus* Hook. and *E. pedatus* Nutt., *E. compositus* var. *trifidus* (Hook.) Gray, *E. Gormanii* Greene and several later synonyms. In the Gray Herbarium Cronquist has annotated many specimens from Greenland and Gaspé as var. *discoideus*, although they show, especially among the newer leaves, plenty of twice ternate blades, and other eastern, as well as western, specimens with just such leaves are similarly annotated; while in eastern strongly pubescent plants, annotated by the monographer as var. *glabratus*, leaves variously cleft, from simply trifid to twice ternate, are readily seen. In fact, the type of var. *discoideus* (Parry no. 5) shows several twice ternate blades, while of the leaves of his *E. trifidus* Hooker wrote: "a few . . . being compound". Furthermore, Nuttall's description of the leaves of his *E. pedatus* read: "primary leaves simple or trifid, afterwards pedate, unequally five-cleft"; and Greene's account of his *E. Gormanii* was "Earliest foliage merely 3-cleft or lobed . . . later leaves with the lateral lobes, and sometimes the terminal one, 3-lobed". In other words, the later and abundant leaves are often quite as much cleft as in the so-called var. *glabratus*.

In view of the magnification of the value of the degree of leaf-cutting and the complete neglect of the fact that most plants treated by Cronquist as *E. compositus*, var. *discoideus* have showy ligules, it is disconcerting, to put it mildly, to those whose field-experience has taught them that the scattered or few almost rayless individuals which, by close watching, may be found in a large colony of definitely ligulate *Erigeron strigosus*, are casual sports—it is disconcerting to see that a monographer of the genus maintains as a good variety *E. strigosus*, var. *discoideus* Robbins, the plants with "ligules about equalling the

disk", *i. e.* essentially invisible, and then, on top of that, adds as a "var. nov." the plants with ligules obsolete, these being var. *eligulatus* Cronquist. Now, as stated, careful observers know that such aberrations (of the plants) are not true varieties, in the sense of having definite ranges. It should be noted, therefore, that when var. *discoideus* of Robbins was published by Gray, Man. ed. 5: 237 (1867) it was not given a separate paragraph nor was its name in bold-face type. As Gray explicitly stated, p. 16, it was one of the variations "which cannot be doubted" to belong in the species, while those to which he gave independent paragraphs and bold-face type (*Thalictrum purpurascens* var. *ceriferum*, *Ranunculus Flammula* var. *reptans*, or *Geum radiatum* var. *Peckii*, for example) were "so distinct and peculiar that they have been, or readily may be, taken for species." The varieties of Gray's first group are often such as are now generally considered to be *forms*, a term which he did not use in its technical sense. As reflecting the understanding of those whose field-observations have been exceptionally accurate, one may quote Dame & Collins, in their Flora of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 49 (1888) under *E. strigosus* "the form known as var. **discoideus**"; while the reduction of it essentially to synonymy by Gray (Synoptical Fl.) and its omission by Britton & Brown are eloquent. As a striking form *discoideus* is interesting but the difference from it of var. *eligulatus* seems not very practical nor necessary.—M. L. FERNALD.

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