grams, or 69.02 per cent. of the original amount. This may be regarded as representing the solids of the nectar. It was transparent and non-crystalline. On being dissolved in water it showed a strongly reducing action toward Fehling's solution, indicating the presence of glucose sugars. In the polariscope a specific rotation of +13.7° was noted, which after inversion became —10.8° showing the presence of cane sugar. From the polariscope data were calculated 11.23 per cent. cane sugar and 57.7 per cent. glucose.

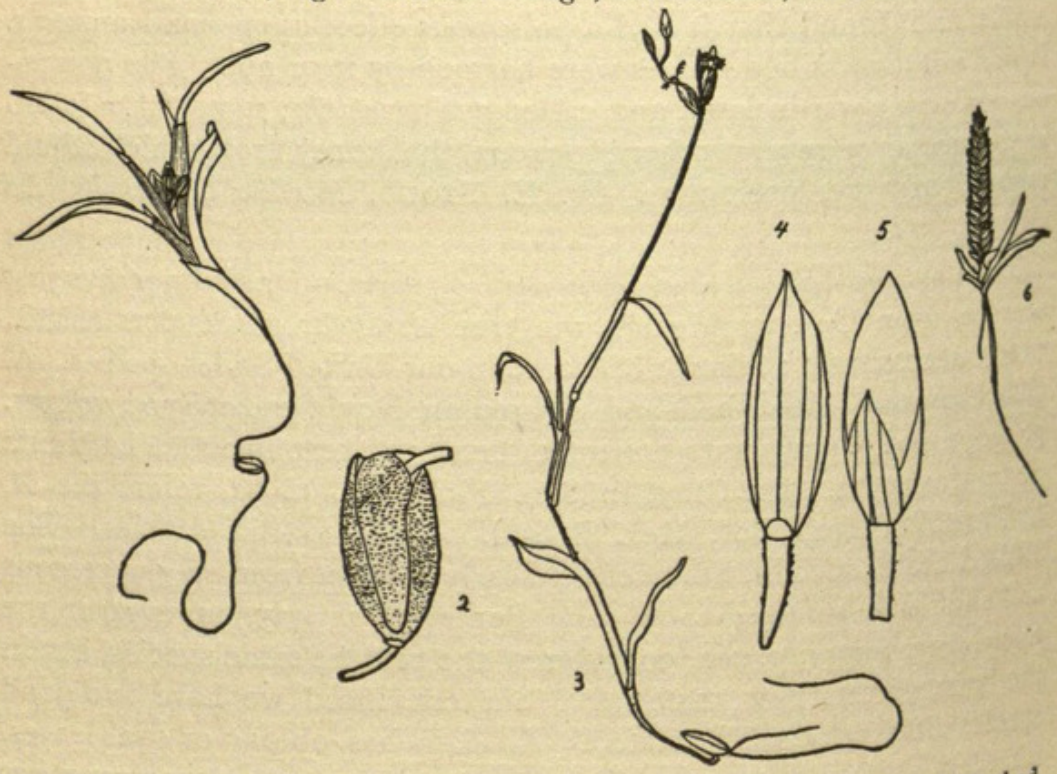
The small amount of material prevented a more extended examination. The composition is expressed very closely by these percentages: water, 30.98; cane sugar, 11.23; glucose, 57.79.

In this connection a late paper by P. C. Plugge (Archiv der Pharmacie *229*, 554) is of interest. Searching for the cause for Xenophon's reference to poisonous honey, he examined the nectar of *Rhododendron pontica* and found that it had a poisonous effect upon small animals. It was not ascertained if bees were harmed by it or not. The poisonous principle was isolated and called *andrometoxin*; it was also found in the nectar of several other Ericaceæ, the honey from which would undoubtedly be poisonous.—W. E. Stone, *Purdue University, La Fayette, Ind.*

Notes on Asclepias glaucescens and A. elata.—Dr. Palmer has just sent in from Colima, Mexico, the true *Asclepias glaucescens* HBK., which necessitates a change of name in our United States species. A. glaucescens was described and figured in Nov. Gen. et Spec. vol. III. p. 190, t. 223, from plants collected between Acapulco and La Venta de la Moxonera. Dr. Gray, in Syn. Flora vol. II. 92, refers the *A. Sullivantii* Torrey Bot. Mex. Bound. p. 162, to this species. The United States species, however, is clearly distinct from A. glaucescens and should be referred to *A. elata* Benth. Dr. Gray, however, in the Syn. Flora, Suppl. p. 401, considered the two the same species, but in the light of this new material I am convinced we have two good species although closely related. A. elata has oblong or oval leaves, rounded at the apex very like A. obtusifolia. A. glaucescens has much longer and narrower leaves, oblong to linear-oblong and acute. The flowers are much larger in A. elata and the hoods are spreading, exposing the gynostegium; in A. glaucescens the hoods are longer instead of shorter than the gynostegium and erect and connivent; there is also a good character in the horns. Dr. Gray describes the form as it is in A. elata (under A. glaucescens in Syn. Flora) where, in speaking of the hood, he says "the whole length within occupied by a broad and thin crest, which is 2-lobed at the summit, the outer lobe

broad and rounded, the inner a short, triangular, subulate, nearly included horn." In A. glaucescens the horn is a broad, triangular, incurved, entire beak.—J. N. Rose, *Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

Some depauperate grasses.—A number of small specimens of grasses were observed this spring in the propagating houses of the Horticultural Department. In many cases the seed from which the plant sprung was still attached to the root and showed no signs of decay. Three specimens were selected and drawn; *Setaria viridis* Beauv., *Panicum sanguinale* L., and *Eragrostis major* Host. These are common weeds here and are normally many-leaved and many-flowered, but having germinated in the sand they were forced for self-preservation into the production of seed much sooner than usual.—A. S. Hitchcock, *Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kans.*



Depauperate grasses: 1. Setaria viridis, natural size; 2. Spikelet attached to root of same, × 10; 3. Panicum sanguinale, natural size; 4, 5. Spikelet from inflorescence of same, × 10; 6. Eragrostis major, natural size.