

## SHORTER NOTES

**ATHYRIUM FILIX-FEMINA NEW TO SASKATCHEWAN.**—In eastern North America, the Northern Lady Fern, *Athyrium filix-femina* var. *michauxii* (Spreng.) Farw., reportedly ranges from central Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Maryland westward to central and southeastern Manitoba, South Dakota, and Missouri. This variety overlaps and apparently intergrades with the Southern Lady Fern, *A. filix-femina* var. *asplenioides* (Michx.) Farw., which extends from Florida and western Texas northward to New England, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Variety *michauxii* has been separated by a gap of 700 miles or more from the Western Lady Fern, *A. filix-femina* var. *sitchense* Rupr. (syn. subsp. *cyclosorum* (Rupr.) C. Chr.), which ranges from southern Alaska to northern Mexico and eastward to western Alberta, Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico. When considered as subsp. *cyclosorum*, a southern ecogeographical var. *californicum* Butters has been distinguished by some authors. In Canada, the midcontinental gap which has been apparent between the Northern and the Western Lady Fern has been thought to extend from central Manitoba across Saskatchewan to westernmost Alberta.

Recently we discovered var. *michauxii* at four separate localities in northeastern Saskatchewan. The collection data are as follows: 14 mi. W of Numabin Bay of Reindeer Lake, mile 1.25 of Highway 105 (Wollaston Lake Road), 56°16'N Lat., 103°36'W Long., lush white birch/river alder/willow woods along stream, *Ternier & Jasieniuk 2113* (SASK); 3.5 mi. N of Courtenay Lake, mile 98 of Highway 105, 57°30'N Lat., 103°58'W Long., moist white birch woods at creek mouth, *Ternier & Jasieniuk 1420* (SASK); 5 mi. S of Geikie River bridge, mile 110 of Highway 105, 57°37'N Lat., 103°54'W Long., moist white birch woods along small creek, *Ternier & Jasieniuk 2352* (SASK); and Parks Lake inlet to Hidden Bay of Wollaston Lake, 58°08'N Lat., 103°41'W Long., lush, moist gallery white birch/black spruce/river alder mixed woods, *Harms 21605, 21606* (SASK), *Harms & Wright 23757* (SASK). The plants were common to moderately abundant at each of these sites.

These collections represent the first records of *A. filix-femina* in Saskatchewan and constitute a northwestward range extension of approximately 250 miles for var. *michauxii* from its known occurrence at Swampy Lake on the Hayes River in central Manitoba. Since the present range extension is northwestward, rather than due west, it is largely parallel to the eastern limit of var. *sitchense* in the Rocky Mountains, and so the apparent gap between the Northern and Western Lady Ferns in Canada remains at over 600 miles.

The sterile fronds of the Saskatchewan specimens seem remarkably similar to those of the Spinulose Shield Fern, *Dryopteris austriaca* (Jacq.) Woytnar var. *spinulosa* (Muell.) Fiori, one of our more common boreal ferns, and could easily be confused with it. In my opinion, the likeness is more apparent in the Sas-



katchewan specimens than it is in specimens from eastern Canada and the United States. I suspect that the Lady Fern may have been overlooked previously in Saskatchewan and western Manitoba by collectors who mistook it for *D. austriaca*. However, an apparently consistent vegetative character to distinguish the two is the venation of the pinnules. In *Athyrium*, the veins reach the pinnule margin, whereas in *Dryopteris* they stop short and end in elongate hydathodes that are best seen on the adaxial surface of the frond.—Vernon L. Harms, *Fraser Herbarium, Department of Plant Ecology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0, Canada*.

**NEW COMBINATIONS IN THE FERN FLORA OF VENEZUELA.**—While we were revising a checklist of the ferns of the state of Mérida, Venezuela, we found some entities that needed a new combination or a new name. The nomenclatural changes for these are as follows:

***Lycopodium nesselianum* Duek & Lellinger, nom. nov.**

*Urostachys moritzii* Nessel, Rev. Sudam. Bot. 6: 160, t. 9, f. 29. 1940, non *Lycopodium moritzii* Muell. Bot. Zeit. 19: 65. 1861. HOLOTYPE: Sierra Nevada, Venezuela, Greven 61 in 1898 (not seen).

***Trichomanes radicans* var. *kunzeanum* (Hooker) Duek & Lellinger, comb. nov.**

*Trichomanes kunzeanum* Hooker, Sp. Fil. 1: 127, t. 39D. 1844. SYNTYPES: Pangoa, Depto. Junín, Peru, Mathews 1088 (K not seen Morton photo 19051); Pampayacu, Depto. Huánuco, Peru, Poeppig (K not seen); and Caracas, Distr. Fed., Venezuela, Linden 176 (K not seen; isosyntype FI not seen Morton photo 16586). The isosyntype is labelled "Hautes Andes de Truxillo et de Mérida."

***Grammitis amphidasyon* (Kunze ex Mett.) Duek & Lellinger, comb. nov.**

*Polypodium amphidasyon* Kunze ex Mett. Abhandl. Senckenb. Naturforsch. Gesell. 2: 49. 1856. SYNTYPES: Mérida, Edo. Mérida, Venezuela, Funck & Schlim 959 and 1100 (both B neither seen).

***Grammitis gameriana* (Vareschi) Duek & Lellinger, comb. nov.**

*Polypodium gamerianum* Vareschi, Acta Bot. Venez. 1: 117, f. 16. 1966. Cerca de Laguna de los Antojos, Edo. Mérida, Venezuela, 4100 m elev., Vareschi & Maegdefrau 6839 (VEN).

***Grammitis xanthotricha* (Klotzsch) Duek & Lellinger, comb. nov.**

*Polypodium xanthotrichum* Klotzsch, Linnaea 20: 376. 1847. SYNTYPES: Mérida, Edo. Mérida, Venezuela, Moritz 250? (B not seen); and Guyana, Rich. Schomburgk 1172 (B not seen).

***Elaphoglossum mortonianum* Duek & Lellinger, nom. nov.**

*Acrostichum attenuatum* Kunze, Linnaea 36: 56. 1869, non Fée, Icon. Esp. Nouv. [Mém. 6] 1, t. 1, f. 1. 1853. SYNTYPES: Mérida, Edo. Mérida, Venezuela, Funck & Schlim 970 (LZ destroyed); Colonia Tovar, Edo. Aragua, Venezuela, Moritz 125 (LZ destroyed), 441 (LZ destroyed; isosyntype BM not seen Morton photo 7129), and Fendler 290 (LZ destroyed; isosyntypes US, Y not seen photo at US).

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