

in a bin of brome grass; their stomachs were full of these seeds. Persistence of the carnivorous habit in winter shrews was illustrated by two incidents: many tracks and tunnels of shrews in the snow were seen around the carcass of a horse by the roadside; a bush rabbit skeleton found beneath the snow was stripped clean of flesh by one or two shrews. Apparently the diet of these animals is

related entirely to the kind of food available.

STUART CRIDDLE

*Editor's Note:* This note was submitted for publication in The Canadian Field-Naturalist before the death of Dr. Criddle. We are pleased to publish it in the same issue as his biography. Dr. Criddle's observations were made at Aweme, Manitoba.

## Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*, in Ontario<sup>1</sup>

On July 19, 1952, Lorne E. James gathered specimens of *Echinacea purpurea* (L.) Moench ½ mile north of St. Thomas in Elgin County, James 1866 (DAO, TRT). A more exact locality was given by Stewart and James (1969): St. Thomas, Kettle River Valley, one-half mile downstream from Waterworks Park. The plant was recorded as sparse in clay soil of dry grassland, but this situation might better be termed a waste area because the area was originally covered by a very dense deciduous forest and was not natural prairie.

The above collection was the basis for Boivin's report (1966) of this species for Southern Ontario. This report was in fact the first published record of the occurrence of *Echinacea purpurea* growing outside of cultivation in Canada, although it was not noted as such.

A second collection was made recently in the vicinity of Ottawa. Data are as follows: Carleton Co., March Twp., Conc. 4, Lot 18, about 1 mile north of Harwood Plains, waste ground along roadside, remote from any building or garden, rare, Adams & Kemp 5, 24 Aug. 1972 (DAO).

The natural distribution of *E. purpurea* is given by Fernald in the eighth edition of Gray's Manual as "Dry open woods and prairies, Ga. to La., n. to Va., O., Mich., Ill. and Ia.; casually adv. north-eastw." The long purple ligules surrounding the dark brownish disc florets in the flower head

are quite showy, thus making the plant of interest to gardeners. It has been grown in the test plots at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, and undoubtedly by horticulturists and gardeners elsewhere in the province. It will likely be found again as a casual escape in the province and could possibly become permanently established in warmer and drier situations in Southern Ontario.

*Echinacea purpurea* can readily be distinguished from *E. pallida*, which is also adventive in southern Ontario, and *E. angustifolia*, which is a native species in southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, by its broadly to narrowly ovate leaves which are rounded at the base and usually bear coarse teeth along the margins rather than lanceolate to lance-linear leaves, attenuate to the base with entire margins.

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