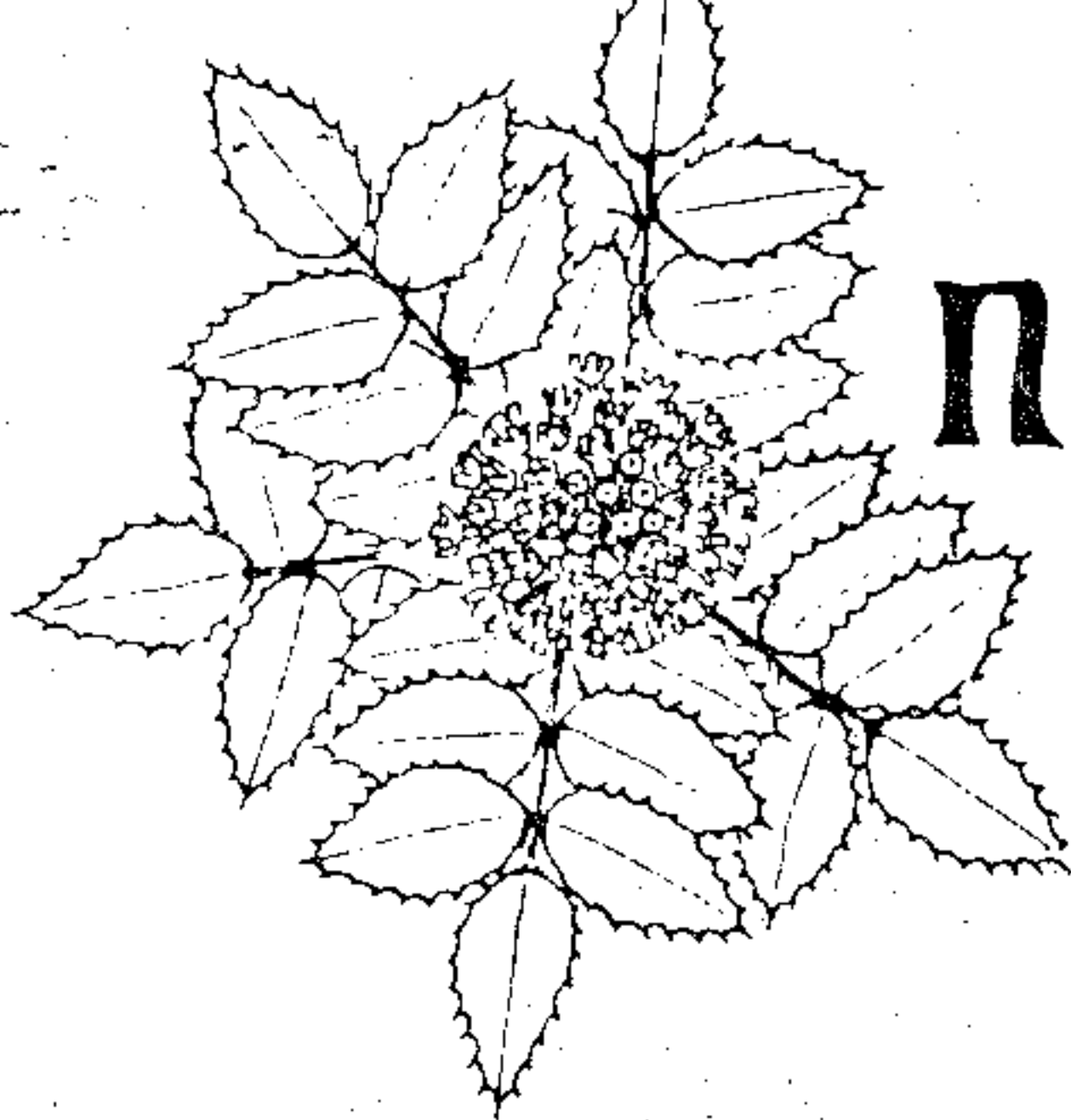


NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON



• OBJECTIVE •

To increase the knowledge of members and public in identification and conservation of the native plants of the Pacific Northwest.

VOL. XV No. 1

JANUARY 1982

CHAPTER NEWS

EMERALD CHAPTER

Meetings:

Monday, January 4, 7:15 p.m. Slides from Australia and New Zealand. John Christy, NPSO and Emerald Chapter Treasurer, will show slides of his recent visit to Australia and New Zealand. John attended the XIII International Botanical Congress, held in Sydney, and participated in several regional moss and lichen forays. In New Zealand he collected in the spectacular Southern Alps. The region is well known for its endemic flora. Meet at the Eugene City Library.

Monday, February 1, 7:15 p.m. Slides of 1981 Emerald Chapter Field Trips. Members bring 10 slides each of last Spring and Summer field trips: State Meeting at Mosier, Oregon; coast Sphagnum bogs; Fairview Peak; Blair Lake Meadows; Siltcoos outlet deflation plains. Bring a second set of 10 slides to show if time permits. We'll also elect 1982 Chapter Officers at this meeting. Meet at the Eugene City Library.

SISKIYOU CHAPTER

Meeting:

January 7, Thursday, "Why save native plants?" a discussion introduced by Dr. Darlene Southworth, Department of Biology, SOSC. 7:30 p.m. Room 275, Science Building.

February 4th, Thursday, "Wildflowers of the Steens Mountains," by Rick Prusz. 7:30 p.m. Room 275, Science Building, SOSC.

HIGH DESERT CHAPTER

Meeting:

January 26, 7:30 p.m., Cascade Natural Gas Meeting Room, 334 NE Hawthorne. Bill Hopkins, plant ecologist for the four Central Oregon National Forests will be the speaker. He will discuss his studies on the existing and proposed Research Natural Areas on the Deschutes, Winema, Fremont and Ochoco National Forests.

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Meeting:

Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 p.m., Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th, Portland. My Favorite Flowers; Hopscotching Across the State of Oregon: Winter Travelogue. This program will be presented by Elizabeth Horn, author-photographer-naturalist. Mrs. Horn's latest book is Wildflowers, The Pacific Coast.

Saturday Workshops:

2 Jan. 1982. No workshop scheduled.

9 Jan. 1982 Flower Close-ups - Joe Barger. 10:00 a.m., Multnomah County Library, Room to be announced. Joe will discuss techniques in photographing wildflowers. This discussion will include tips on extension tubes, flash, fast-films and special lenses. If you have questions, bring your camera.

16 Jan. 1982. Alpines of Switzerland - Fred Dragger. Same time and place as above. Fred will show selections from several trips to the Swiss Alps.

23 Jan. 1982 Endangered Plants of the Willamette Valley - Dr. Janet Hohn. Same time and place as above. Janet will discuss in detail a few of the Willamette Valley T&E's, so that we can all learn their characteristics and perhaps make some new sitings.

30 Jan. 1982 Threatened and Endangered Legislation in Oregon - Ann Whitmyer. Same time and place as above. Ann will update us on recent political history and the current situation regarding her work in T&E legislation for Oregon plants.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHAPTER

Meeting:

Monday, January 18, 7:30 p.m. First Methodist Church, State and Church Streets, Carrier Room. Use Church Street entrance. Program: Pioneer Botanists of the Northwest, by Jan Larea Dennis Johnston.

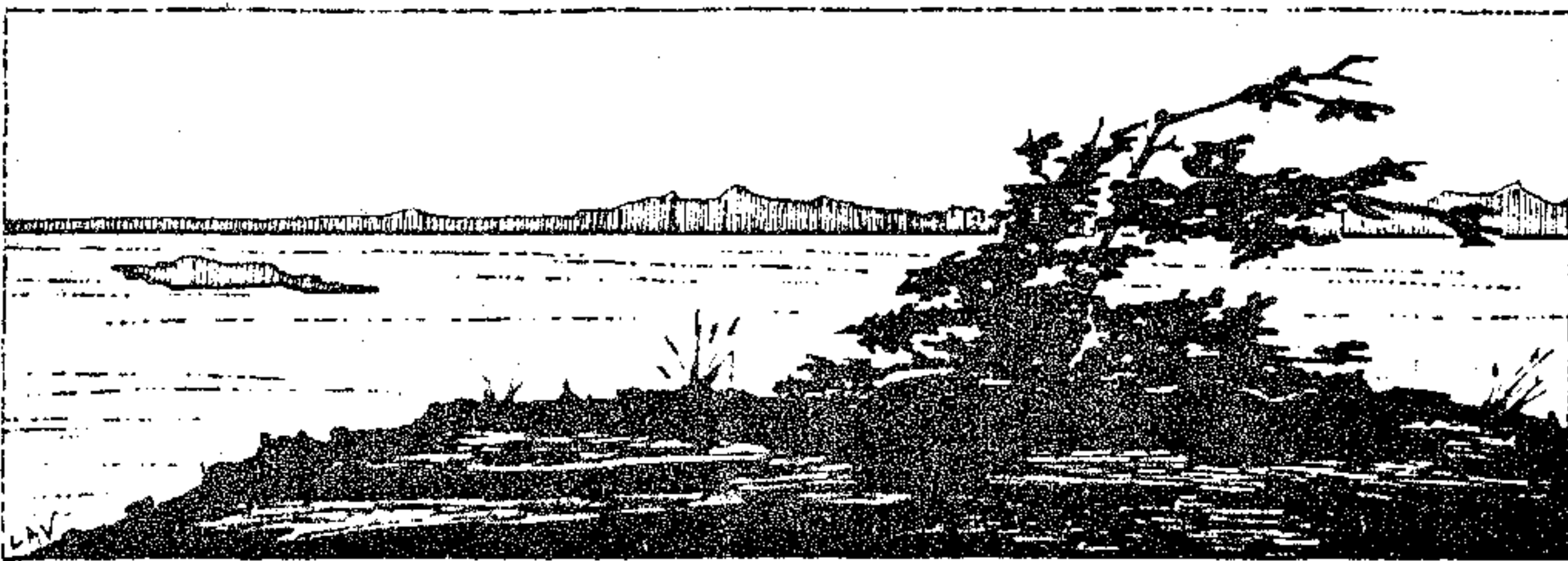


NPSO NOMINEES FOR 1982

In accordance with Article VIII, Section 2, of the NPSO By-Laws, the following nominees for state offices have been forwarded by the nominating committee (Ruth Hansen, Chairperson, Marge Ettinger, Ruth Rouse, Joah Seevers, and Tony Sobolik):

- President: Dr. Rhoda Love, Eugene
- Vice-President: Annie Kowalishen, Portland
- Secretary: Paula Vincent, Klamath Falls
- Treasurer: Nadine Smith, Eugene
- Directors:
 - Florence Ebeling, Portland
 - Harvey Waldon, Jr., Bend
 - Marjorie Ettinger, Bend
 - Wilbur Bluhm, Salem
 - Larry Scofield, Salem
 - Wayne Rolle, Siskiyou
 - Dr. Darlene Southworth, Siskiyou

Resumes of the above, and any additional nominees forwarded by 5 or more paid members (with their nominee's consent), will appear in the February Bulletin. Ballots will be distributed in the March Bulletin.



SISKIYOU CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WORKS TO PRESERVE THE AGATE DESERT

The Conservation Committee of the Siskiyou Chapter has been developing a program for the preservation of the grassland community of the Agate Desert in central Jackson County. The grassland community is unique in its character of having three plant associations controlled by the microtopography of mound-intermound-vernal pool. Of special concern is Limnanthes floccosa ssp. grandiflora (proposed candidate threatened) which occurs only along the periphery of the vernal pools of the Agate Desert. Agate Desert is particularly vulnerable to the agricultural and industrial practices within central Jackson County.

The Chapter has mapped, identified, and prioritized areas of concern throughout the Agate Desert. During the upcoming field season (March-April) field surveys will be conducted to identify and evaluate key areas of concern. Competent botanists and interested people are encouraged and welcomed to join the effort to preserve some native plants of Oregon.

Conservation activities of the Siskiyou Chapter are coordinated by:

- Ron Kranz
- 338 B Street
- Ashland, Oregon 97520
- 482-9120

Feel free to write, call or visit, Next Conservation Committee Meeting, January 14, 1982. 7:30 p.m.

TWO RARE PLANTS FOUND IN BEAVERTON'S ST. MARY'S WOODS

It was just a perfect late fall day to see where another old dirt road, now serving as a trail, goes. This portion of the Willamette Valley bordering St. Mary's Home for Boys has seen many uses since the late 1960's, and some of it is still in its near natural state.

So I took a narrow, branch strewn trail, overgrown with vine maple, red elder, Oso and service berry; a few Ponderosa pine, many Douglas fir, western hemlock, valley white fir, and Oregon white oak; the ground cover is salal and long leaf Oregon grape, plus many tufts of sworn fern. As I was rounding a bend in the trail along the edge of a natural depression, I saw what I thought was an out-of-place Oenanthe sarmentosa (water parsley), then I saw the fertile panicles of sporangia ... 3 plants within 3 meters of one another.

Botrychium multifidum is our only evergreen Botrychium. Deer heavily browse this species and often you see only the clipped tops.

Just a little further up the trail, but in a dense cluster of 3 mosses Hylocomium splendens, Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus, and Stokesiella oregana, was the unusual club coral Clavariadelphus pistillaris. Some mycophagists have tried to eat this species, but its taste is described as reminiscent of stale rope.

This is the same 496 acres up for development to the North of "Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center." Bulldozers were already working the S.E. section of this acreage on 170th. Ten acres of this same property bordering Jenkins and Murray are also up for development. There are sessile Trillium, Corallorhiza striata, Erythronium, Calypso bulbosa, and many others here. What a tragic loss this will be.

Glenn E. Walthall
Portland Chapter

ECOLOGICAL NOTES

How is Calypso bulbosa Pollinated?

I recently read a paper in Madrono about our fairy slipper orchid, Calypso bulbosa (J. D. Ackerman, Pollination biology of Calypso bulbosa ... Madrono, July 1981, pp. 101-110), and it set me to thinking about Charles Darwin. I visited Darwin's home in Down, Kent, England, in May 1979. My family and I walked Darwin's "sand walk" through a wooded area behind his home and we saw a number of British wild orchids blooming there. Darwin was fascinated by the mechanisms of pollination in the British orchids and he was the first to really understand them. In 1862 he published his charming and fascinating book, The various contrivances by which Orchids are fertilised by Insects. His observations and conclusions are highly valid today and have recently been summarized as follows: "In the variety and perfection of their adaptations to insect pollination the Orchids stand alone." (Proctor & Yeo, The Pollination of Flowers, Taplinger, 1972). No doubt most of us know the story of the several European Ophrys species whose flowers mimic the shape and color of various insects, including the male flies and wasps to attempt copulation with the flowers --- pollinating the latter in the process!

continued on next page

ECOLOGICAL NOTES, continued

Not all orchids are insect mimics, but virtually all have evolved precise mechanisms for attracting insect pollinators and for ensuring the transfer of pollen.

But what of our exquisite little purple fairy slipper, *Calypso bulbosa*? This is the early spring blooming orchid which grows in the thick litter of coniferous forests. *Calypso bulbosa* is on the "Watch List" for Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants of Oregon, meaning populations could become threatened and must be monitored.

Bees apparently learn quickly which flowers offer a "reward" and *Calypso* blossoms are visited only by bees which have not yet learned to avoid them. No wonder seed set is low!

In his study area, Ackerman found that *Calypso* pollination was relatively high only at the brief times when hatching of naive bees was high.

Perhaps Darwin would have been a bit puzzled by our western fairy slipper. At any rate, the pollination system for this species seems a bit precarious and so the plant no doubt deserves its "Watch List" status; and it seems fair to end with an ecological caveat: If we want to see our populations of *Calypso bulbosa* increase, we must (among other things) look to the protection of our bumblebees!

Rhoda Love
Emerald Chapter

LEACH GARDEN

Leach Garden Friends have organized to protect and maintain the home and botanic gardens of John and Lilla Leach. The *Kalmiopsis leachiana*, one of the oldest members of the Heath Family and the only plant in its genus, was discovered by and named for Mrs. Leach. The Leachs made mule-pack trips in Curry County in the 1930's collecting the rare *Bensoniella* and many other plants which are owned now by the University of Oregon Herbarium. The loss of their home and gardens to development of private apartments seemed imminent until volunteers from the Portland Chapter of the Native Plant Society and the Federation of Garden Clubs began to help clear trails and write letters to the City Commissioners.

The Leach Garden Friends have incorporated to research her work, inventory mementos, lead bird and plant walks on Saturdays this winter. Donations of plants, mementos, or money, entitles the donor to become a "Friend." Questions might be addressed to the Treasurer, Mrs. Stan Sackett, 12924 SE Knapp St., Portland, Oregon 97736, or the Portland Chapter of the Native Plant Society.

Secretary: Charlene Holzwarth
2524 NE 34th
Portland 97212

DEATH VALLEY - GREAT BASIN DESERT ADAPTATIONS

March 20 to 27

A tour to Death Valley explores the land of the Northern Paiute, the Great Basin Desert and the adaptations of prehistoric and present day residents. Participants will view unique plants, animals and geology of the area.

February 14, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

A special slide-lecture program will be presented for persons who want to learn more about the Great Basin Desert.

For more information contact Continuing Education, Linfield College, toll-free in Oregon 1-800-452-4176 or 472-4121 ext. 269.

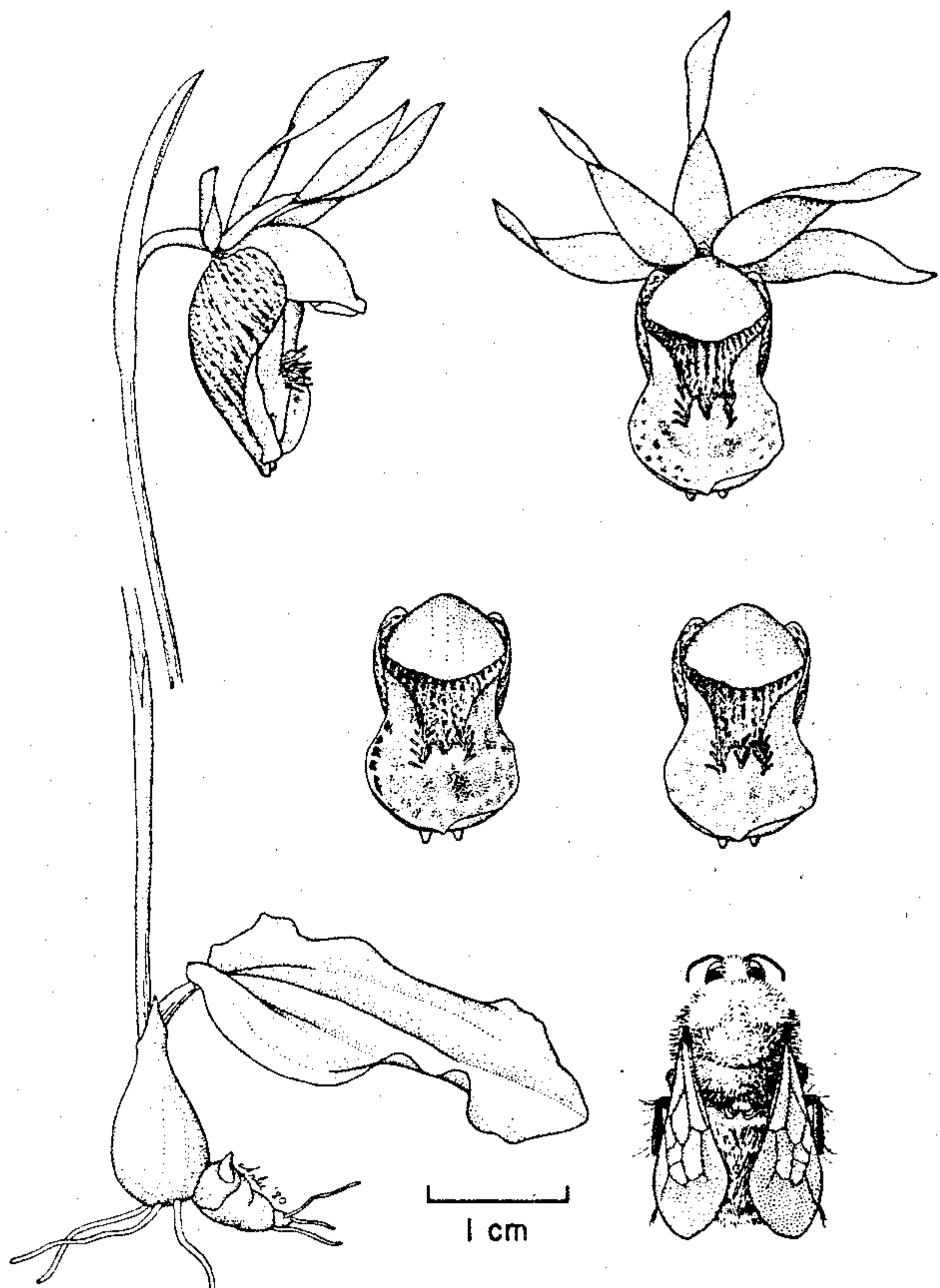


FIG. 1. *Calypso bulbosa* var. *occidentalis* and pollinator. Variation in labellum spot patterns is shown. The *Bombus caliginosus* queen has a pollinarium attached to its scutellum.

From J. Ackerman's paper, Madrono 28: 101-110. 1981.

Ackerman has studied the pollination of *C. bulbosa* in Northern California. By bagging blossoms he first established that the flowers set no seeds when insects are prevented from visiting them. In addition, he found that among the *Calypsos* he studied, seed set was low in any case. But some flowers were visited by bumblebees and some of these did set seed.

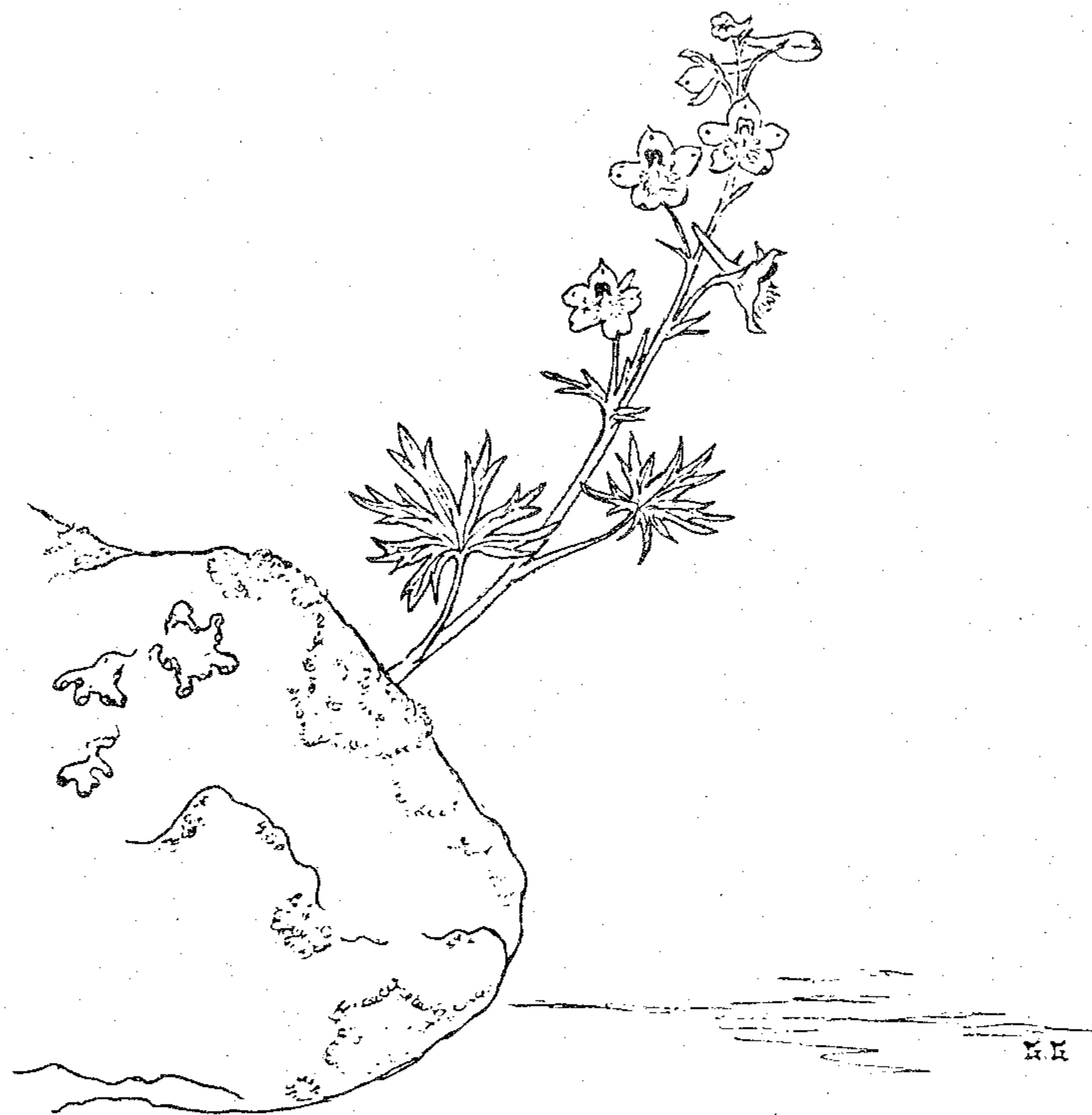
What induces bumblebees to visit *Calypso* flowers? According to Ackerman, nothing much! The flowers he studied produced no nectar. In fact, it was his conclusion that only newly-emerged and inexperienced bumblebees visited *Calypso* at all and probably only because of the flowers' relatively attractive color and, in some cases, scent.

RARE AND COMMON DELPHINIUMS

Many people are familiar with Menzie's larkspur (Delphinium menziesii), a common Pacific Northwest perennial which blooms on hillsides at low elevations in the spring, as well as higher in the Cascades and Coast Range where it adds its deep purple color to the display of mountain meadow wildflowers during the summer.

But there are several species of local Delphiniums which are listed on the Federal Register as rare and endangered, and are rarely seen by most people. Two of these species have primarily white colored flowers, the sepals (colored in Delphiniums) and lower petals are white, and the upper petals near the center of the flower are purple or blue. These two species are Delphinium pavonaceum (Peacock larkspur) and Delphinium leucophaeum (White Rock larkspur). Both species are narrow regional endemics. D. pavonaceum is found in the mid-Willamette Valley mostly around the Corvallis area, but also as far north as the vicinity of Salem. These plants prefer to grow in low wet areas near the Willamette floodplain and its tributaries. They are found in May and June, in wet open fields and along roadside ditches as well as in wooded areas. D. pavonaceum is often found growing with primarily colored Delphiniums which may or may not be D. menziesii, (My research on this point is presently inconclusive). D. pavonaceum is quite abundant and fairly protected at Finley Wildlife Refuge about ten miles south of Corvallis.

D. leucophaeum is found around the vicinity just south of Portland in shallow soil on rocky cliffs and plateaus near the Willamette, as well as on rocky islands in the river itself. The best known population of this Delphinium grows on a plateau at Camassia Natural Area (owned by the Nature Conservancy) near West Linn where it blooms in June. Many people have trouble telling D. pavonaceum and D. leucophaeum apart, as both have flowers which are the same colors, and plants which can grow quite tall (even up to a yard high). But the flowers of D. leucophaeum are smaller (approx. 22 mm. in width), whereas those of D. pavonaceum are about 29 mm. in width. The white lower petals of D. leucophaeum also have long curly hairs, whereas those of D. pavonaceum are very short, straight and hardly noticeable. Part of the description of the habitats of D. pavonaceum and D. leucophaeum, as well as the illustration of the lower petal of D. leucophaeum in Flora of the Pacific Northwest by C. Leo Hitchcock and A. Cronquist are apparently inaccurate.



Delphinium leucophaeum

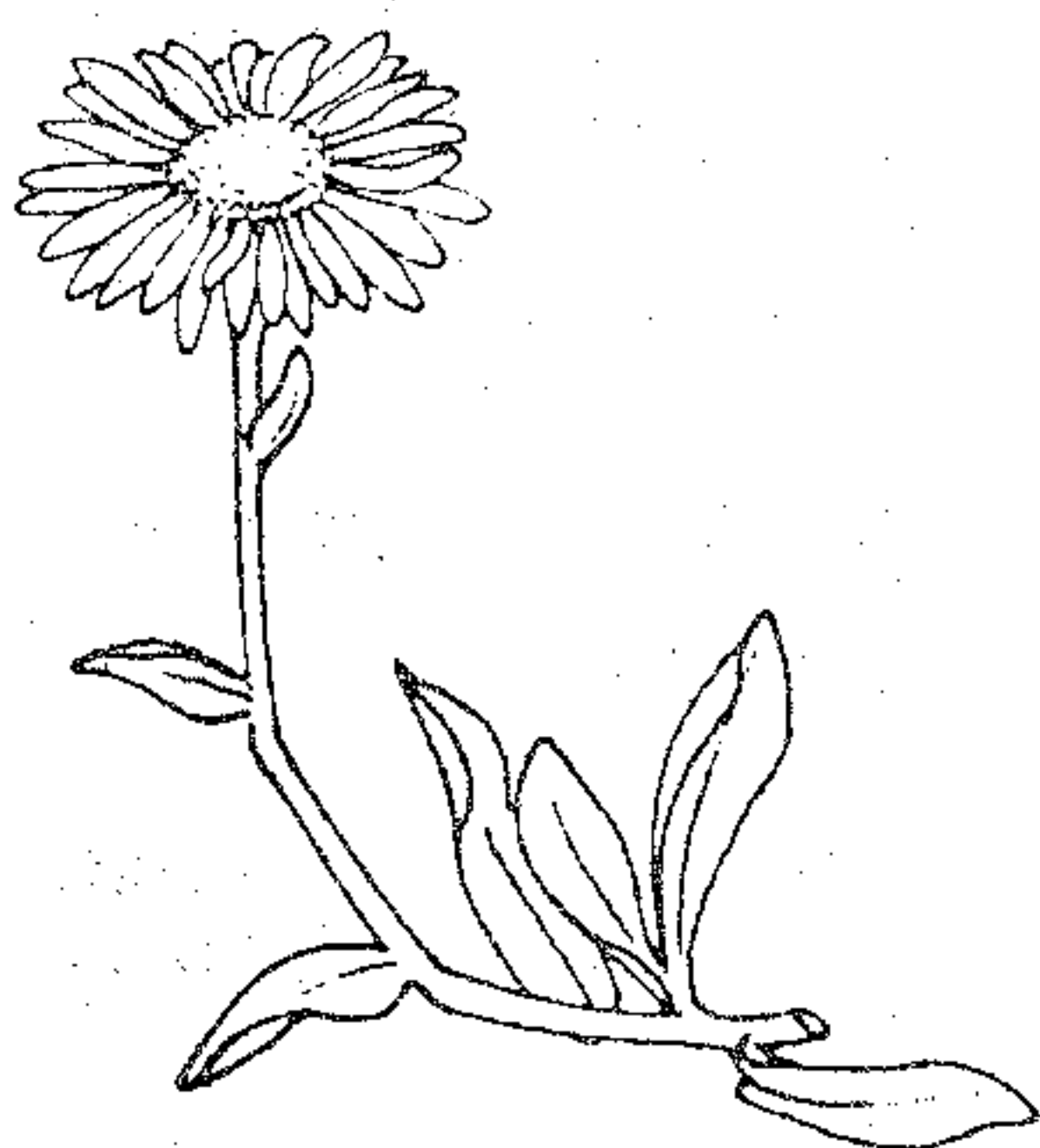
All these three Delphiniums (D. menziesii, D. pavonaceum and D. leucophaeum) are pollinated by a fairly common large black bumblebee, Bombus californicus. Another rare and endangered Delphinium which grows in western Washington and the Columbia Gorge area is apparently pollinated by another bumblebee, Bombus mixtus, (a small yellow bee). This is Delphinium nuttallii, a small purple flowered species which looks similar to D. leucophaeum with long curly hairs on the lower petals, but its flowers are even smaller than D. leucophaeum, and the sepals are typically bent forward in a cupped shape. D. nuttallii is also found on rocky banks and cliffs in habitats similar to D. leucophaeum.

The genus Delphinium is highly interfertile and many species are difficult to identify. I hope the descriptions of the flowers and habitats I have given above will help people tell these plants apart in the field.

Gaylee Goodrich
Master's Student, U. of O.
Emerald Chapter

RARE AND ENDANGERED NATIVE PLANT EXCHANGE

The Rare and Endangered Native Plant Exchange is a program to foster care for rare native plants. The plan calls for giving endangered plants to people who will provide homes for them and who will return seeds and cuttings at the end of each growing season. Records of all plant and seed exchanges will be maintained by participating botanical gardens and societies and in the computer system of the City University of New York. For information about how you can participate in the Rare and Endangered Native Plant Exchange, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Plant Exchange, c/o The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY, 10458



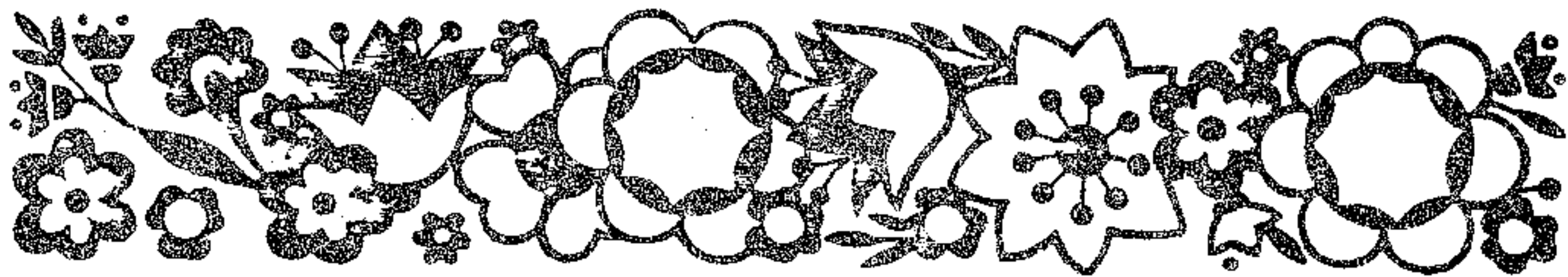
OLD GROWTH FORESTS--A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE

A conference on the ecological, sociological, managerial and economic aspects of old growth Douglas-fir forests will be held in Eugene, Oregon, on February 13, 1982. The conference is designed to present various viewpoints on old growth forests in order that the public may participate in future decisions about the disposition of old growth forest stands in Oregon and Washington.

The conference will be held at Eugene's Valley River Inn and will feature highly regarded experts speaking on various aspects of old growth forests. A key forest management person will present the keynote address.

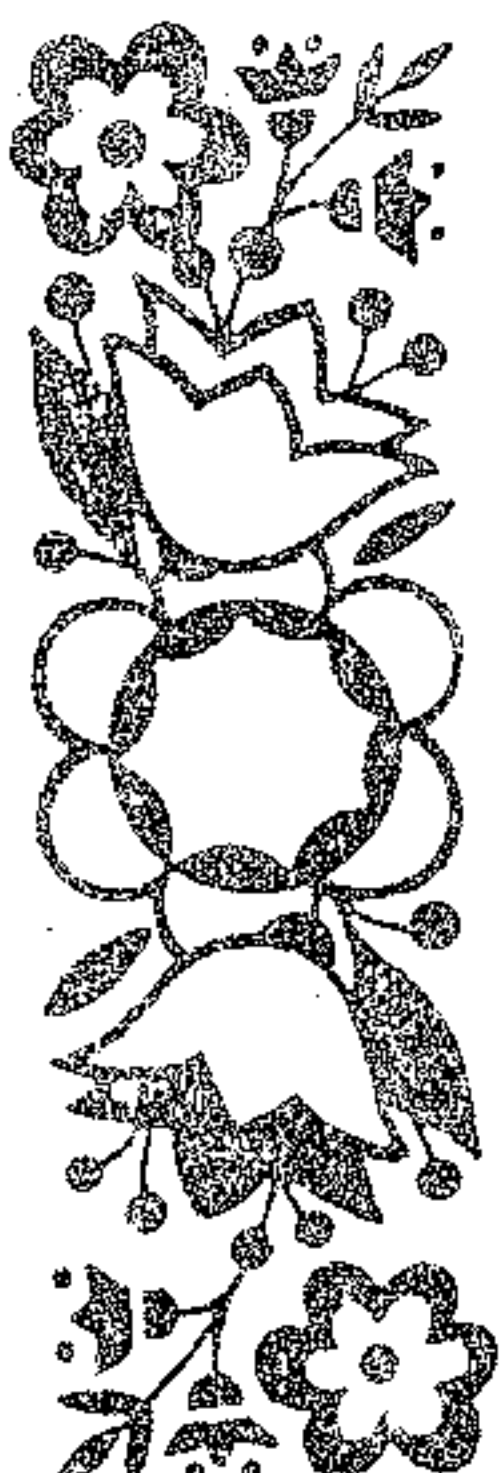
Co-sponsors of the conference are the League of Women Voters of Central Lane County and the University of Oregon's Bureau of Governmental Research and Service. Federal forest management agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, as well as the timber industry, Oregon State Fish and Wildlife Department, and conservation groups, are working together on a steering committee to plan the one-day conference.

The goal of the conference is to provide the public with a balanced perspective of old growth forests by bringing in respected experts in their fields to speak on the diverse perspectives pertaining to old growth Douglas-fir forests. The forum will provide for open discussion of the various viewpoints to better inform the public on this timely subject. For registration materials or more information contact Kathy Tri, Bureau of Governmental Research and Service, University of Oregon, P.O. Box 3177, Eugene, OR 97403.



ENDANGERED WILD FLOWER CALENDARS

Something new appears. One out of every ten American wild flowers is threatened with extinction by man's activities. Information about the problem and how you can help, is provided in Endangered Wild Flower Calendar (10.5 X 17" open, 14 color photographs), produced by the New York Botanical Garden. Included in the calendar is Mirabilis macfarlanei, endangered Macfarlane's four-o'clock from eastern Oregon and western Idaho. Copies can be obtained for \$5.00. Funds raised will assist conservation efforts. Call chapter officers to order your copy, or use order form below.



Calendar Order Form (Please print clearly)

Please send me ___ copies of the Endangered Wild Flower Calendar.

Name: _____
Street: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Enclose \$5 per calendar, or \$15 for four calendars. Please add 50¢ for each calendar to cover mailing costs.

Total number ordered: _____
Amount enclosed: _____

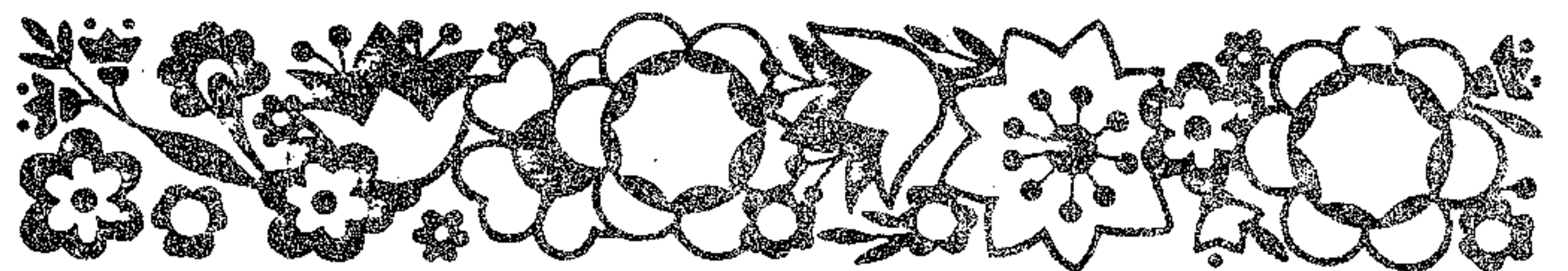
Send to Rare and Endangered Native Plant Exchange, c/o New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, N.Y. 10458.

EARLY EXPERIENCES OF A BOTANIST by L.F.Henderson, continued from December 1981 Bulletin

- Section 4 -

In all my botanical work on this coast, one thing struck me as peculiar, and yet from conversations I have had with many botanists, I find that my experience was no different from that of the average. This was the number of botanists I corresponded with for many years, and yet how few I ever met! Among these whom I regretted never meeting were Asa Gray, Sereno Watson, George Engelmann, George Vasey, Frank S. Scribner, Leo Lesquereux, in America, and Renaud and Cardot in France. I have had the pleasure to meet C.P. Sargent, B.S. Robinson, M.S. Fernald, and J.M. Greenman, Harvard, and N.S. Britton at Columbia; while in Oregon I had the great pleasure to meet John Muir, Thomas Condon, C.C. Parry, C.V. Piper, and C.G. Pringle. To John Muir I listened with interest to his stories of Alaska and California, and it was at his seeing a specimen of blood-red Zauschneria in my herbarium, that he laughed and narrated for me his thrilling, and well known, adventure with a grizzly bear in the upper Yosemite Valley of California. To C.C. Parry, writer, collector and delightful, though modest man, I owe much for his suggestions in collecting plants. It was to C.G. Pringle, teacher in Vermont, collector for Harvard University, and all-round good fellow and educated gentleman, that I perhaps owe most for his valuable suggestions in finding plants, mounting, and especially numbering them. I had only recently found out the importance of giving serial numbers to every plant I collected, save in this particular. When I had collected a plant and given it a number, I was inclined to keep to that number, no matter how often I had collected it. This, of course, often led to two similar but different plants having the same number-- a most obnoxious thing. I well remember his saying to me at my house, when he found two plants having the same number, "Remember, Mr. Henderson, there is nothing cheaper than numbers, so don't be afraid of using different numbers for not only every plant you collect, but for every time you collect the same plant," -- a lesson I have never forgotten, and which, in turn, I have always impressed upon my pupils and younger field men.

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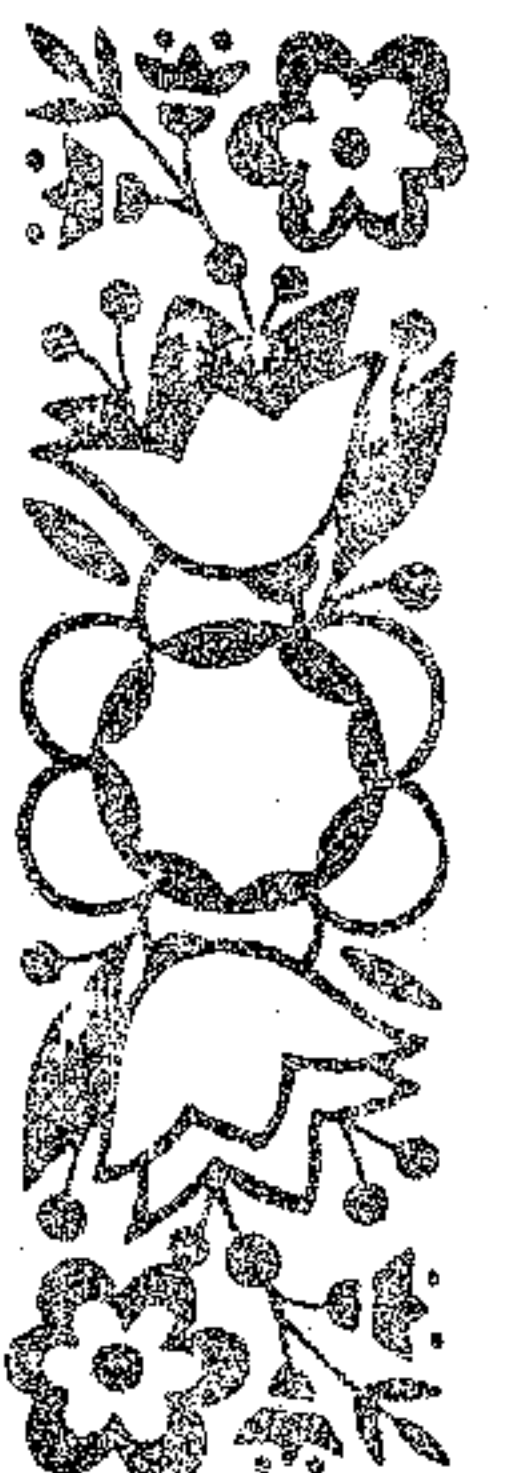
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City, State, Zip: _____

Your payment will assist local and national conservation efforts. Thanks for your help.



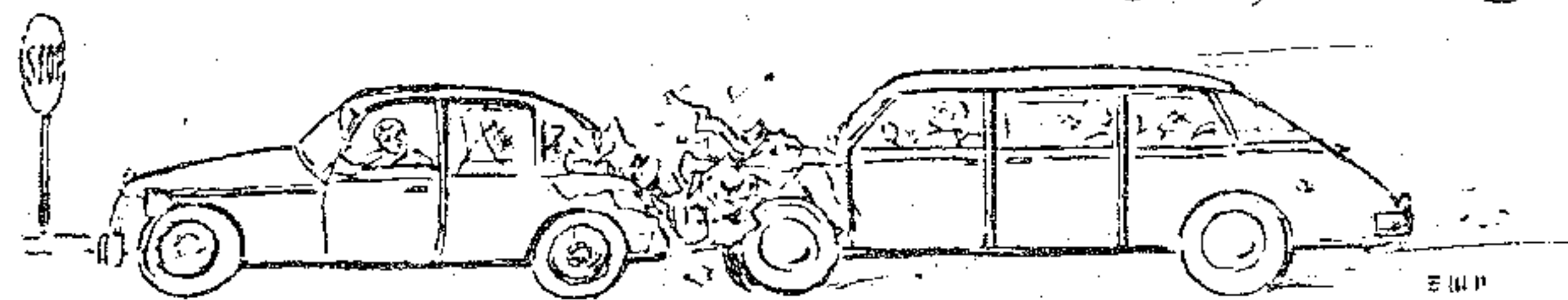
PATHETIC DIFFERNITIONS: truncate - ending abruptly and squarely

EARLY EXPERIENCES, continued

As for the collectors who lived in our Northwestern states, I was intimately acquainted with C.V. Piper and William Suksdorf, but though I corresponded and exchanged plants with John Leiberg and William Cusick for years, I regret greatly that I never met either of them. Dear old Dr. Condon, though primarily a geologist, was as an amateur interested in botany, and many pleasant hours and delightful walks I passed in his company in Eugene and elsewhere.

And to no man can the term "lovable" be used with greater propriety than when speaking of Dr. Henry Bolander. I doubt whether any collector ever added more to the knowledge of California plants than did he. But financial reverses overtook him in his favorite field of teaching in that state, and these reverses none of his own making, but due to the unholy union of big business and politics, and he finally spent the remainder of his noble life in the private schools of Portland. Many an evening did I spend with him in his simple little home here, where with his efficient and admiring wife and the writer acting as audience, he told of his botanical wandering and discoveries in California. Also many a Sunday afternoon walk did we take to the environs of Portland, where we spent hours in his favorite pursuit--the collection and study of mosses. On one of these occasions he told me how he "sold" Dr. Asa Gray, as he pronounced it in his German-English. The genus Bolandra was named for him, the first species being Bolandra californica. Then Howell and I added a second to this genus in Bolandra oregana. Shortly after, Bolander wrote Gray that he had discovered two new species of Bolandra, and had named them, as I remember, Amarella and Aramintha. Dr. Gray soon wrote him in reply, "Bolander, I never heard of such ridiculous specific names. Why did you do it?" At this, Dr. Bolander sent him a postal card, with the pictures of his two young twins thereon. A reply from Gray was characteristic, "Sold! Sold! But I know you haven't got the money."

That self-forgotten, delightful, learned, and yet modest soul, Dr. R.D. Nevius, I met first when he lived in North Yakima, and about him and our trips together I hope to speak at some future time. Last, but not least, that friend of everybody and everybody's friend, M.W. Gorman, late botanist living in Portland, is perhaps remembered by many of his acquaintances better even than by me. Yet our relations were always of the pleasantest, and many an enjoyable day we spent together in your grand old Forestry Building, discussing and looking over plants.



(by Ed Paulton from the Fiddlehead Forum, Bulletin of the American Fern Society)

This brings me to the end of my early experiences in Oregon for the summer of 1889 I was very ill with typhoid! And on recovering that fall, I found myself too weak to think of filling the position of principal of the only high school in Portland, to which position I had been elected, sent in my resignation to the Board, and moved over to Olympia in the State of Washington. The story of my life from then to the present I may take up for you at some future time, provided you have not been exhausted by the lengthy recital of the very simple occurrences of this half.

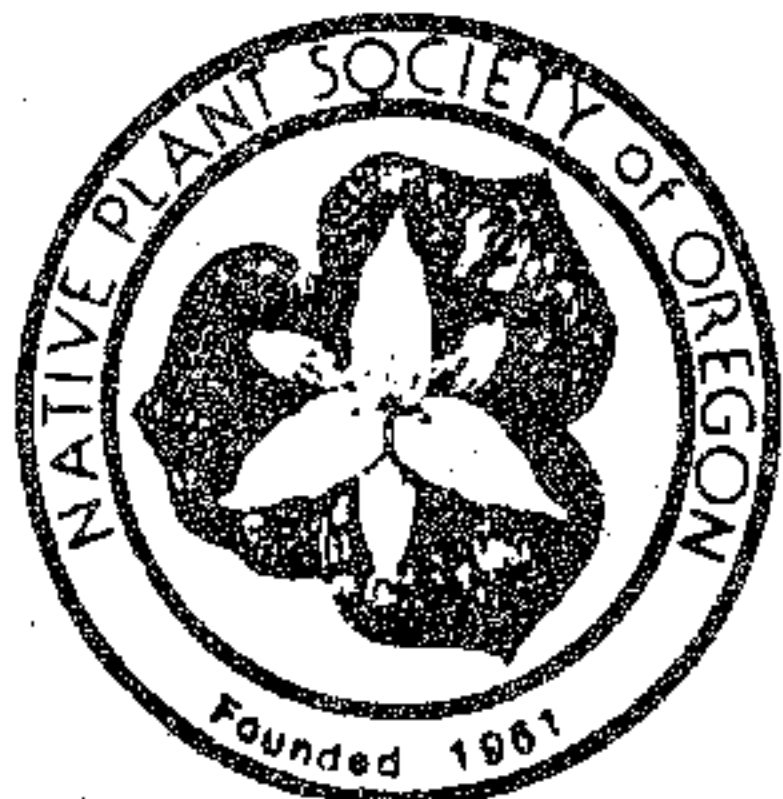
Those of you who were present at my talk of March 25th may remember that I ended the first part of this story with my departure from Portland and Oregon in the fall of 1889. I engaged in business with my brother, J.L. Henderson, for a period of two years, during which time I studied the flora, mainly of Thurston County, of King, and Pierce Counties. This was, of course, only a very skimming of the surface, conducted when business was slack and on occasional Sundays.

In the summer of 1890, however, the "O'Neil Olympic Expedition" was organized for the purpose of passing through the Olympics from east to west, climbing Mt. Olympus en route, and making abundant side trips. To Mr. Will Steel, once a resident of Portland, now of Medford and Crater Lake, must be given the honor of organizing this expedition. It was a mixed expedition--the army represented by Lieutenant O'Neil of Vancouver and about a dozen non-commissioned officers and privates forming the complement of the army. They also furnished a quantity of mules to transport the baggage and supplies of the expedition. The old Oregon Alpine Club, the father of the present Mazamas, furnished the scientific staff and most of the money. This staff consisted of Col. N.E. Linsley, once an officer in the Civil War, at the time an assayer and prospector living in Seattle and Spokane. During the whole time of my connection with the expedition this delightful man regaled us round the camp fires with his stories of his expeditions, either scientific or military. A second member of the staff was B.J. Bretherton, a pleasant young man and cartographer of the expedition. To him was the work of plotting the country and naming unnamed mountains and streams. The writer was the botanist of the expedition. We soon found out that much scientific work must give way to making trails, for none existed then a few miles above Lake Cushman. How I grew to hate those poor innocent mules! Day after day and week after week we were engaged in sawing through and rolling out of the way sections of fallen trees from three to seven feet through, in order that the animals might transport the food and bedding of the party. So a vicious circle was established: go back with the mules to Hood's Canal to bring in more fodder and food for animals and men, so that the men could cut more logs to let through the mules and consume more food to cut out more logs. So gigantic were many of these logs and so impenetrable the vine maple and devil's club thickets, that often we all worked with saw, axe, and brush-hook, to gain a quarter of a mile in a day. Then the delay caused by the numerous expeditions which the Lieutenant was forced to send out to scout for terrain suitable for trails. This was absolutely necessary, as much of the country stood so on edge, that the mules could not get along, even if no logs were in their way. Once, when exasperated by the delays, I heard Col. Linsley say, "Curse this country! I have prospected all the mountains of the United States and I never saw one to equal this in difficulty of progression and at the same time in lack of any valuable minerals!"

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON

- New membership
- Renewal
- Address change

- Student 5.00
- Regular member 7.50
- Sustaining member 25.00
- Patron 100.00
- Life member 500.00



Dues include monthly news bulletin. Please make check payable to: Native Plant Society of Oregon

NAME _____

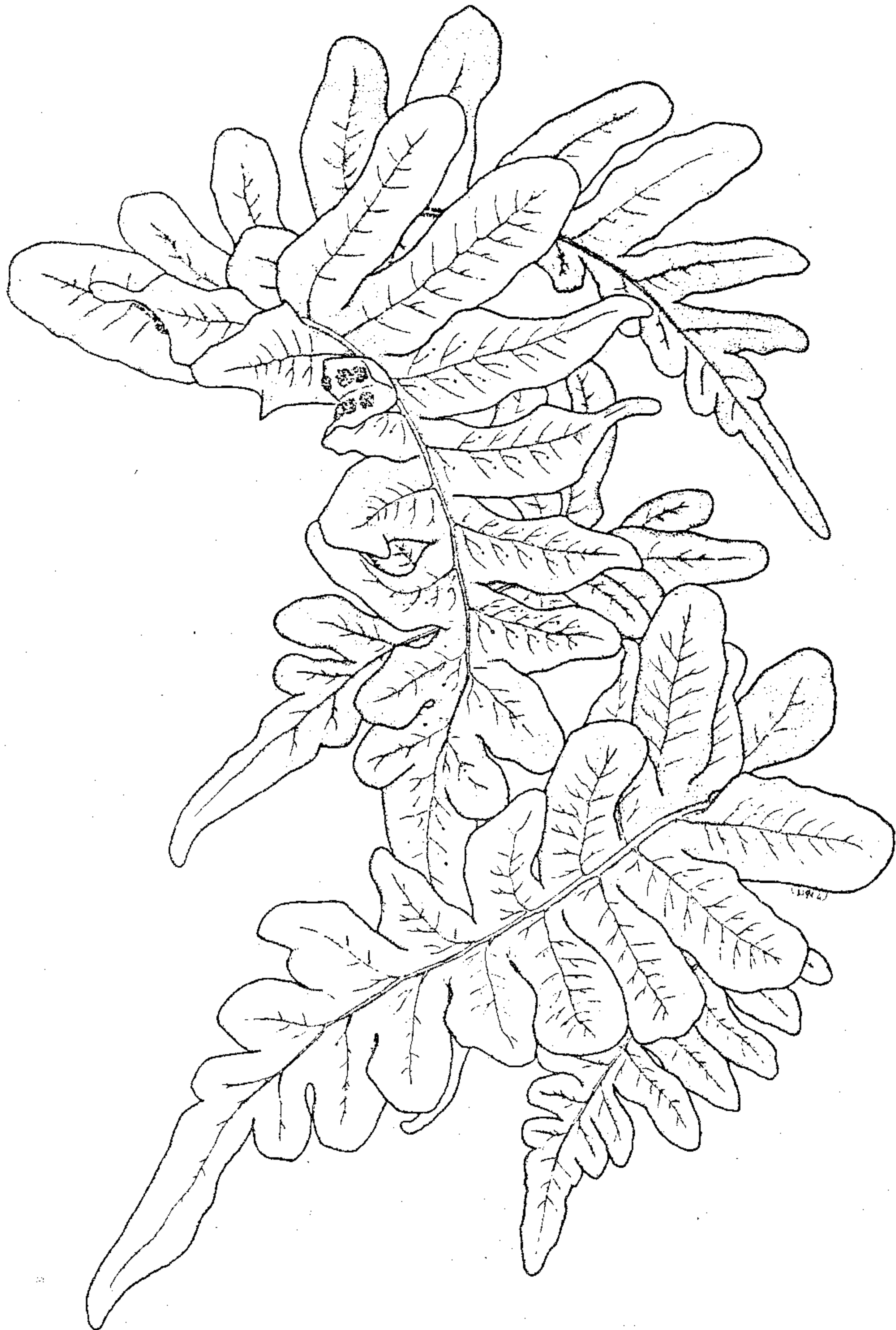
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CHAPTER _____

EARLY EXPERIENCES, continued

Some of these side trips were of intense interest to me, as the flora was abundant and no one had even collected there before. One of these trips stands out in my memory, and will give you some idea of what we had to overcome. It was composed of Col. Linsley, Sargeant Yates, and the writer. The first night we had to camp on the side of a tremendous slope, so steep that we slept with feet down hill, a standing tree on one side and a big log on the other to keep us from rolling down the slope, and not even a blanket under or above us! But if that day's trip was hard, the next day's was to be so much worse, as to make the first seem easy by comparison. Soon we were proceeding along a very knife-blade with a river sending a faint roaring a thousand feet below us on the left, while a rock-strewn, icy slope was at our right. One misstep and down we went on one side or the other to a certain death, or even worse, a severe injury which would render it almost impossible to take one out alive. Finally towards noon we came to a spot that seemed at first impassable. The edge of the knife-blade was here covered by a string of alpine firs, without a bit of foot-way to right or left. When we reached the first of these little trees, we saw to our surprise that some prospector had been along here this year or the year before, and had with a little saw or sharp hatchet cut off the tops of all these trees to within a foot of the ground, and had thus succeeded in passing them -- we imagined with his legs dangling on each side. So good a job had he done, however, that by cutting each of us a walking stick, we were able to step on each little tree and thence to the next one, and so gradually across. I know not what would have happened to any one of us, had he been subject to vertigo, but each man simply glued his eyes to the next tree, and thus we all crossed safely this 30 or 40 foot space.



Just beyond this place, I was repaid for my whole hazardous day's work by finding a little Rosaceous plant which proved new to science. This was that tiny shrub named by Canby Eriogynia hendersoni, and changed by Greene to Lutkea hendersoni, and eventually by Piper into Spiraea hendersoni*. As we had expected to be out only one day, our food supply was very low. It consisted now of ground up crackers, from our constant slips and falls. So we poured this out carefully onto a paper from the sack, and then divided the mass scrupulously into three small piles. We then poured these separate piles into our two cupped hands, and nibbled on this slowly to make this, our dinner, last longer, while an old hound, that insisted on following us from camp, stood just in front of us, gazing long-ingly on the fast disappearing crumbs while abundant saliva dripped from his mouth! Not a crumb did he get, however, for we knew we had to reach camp while our strength lasted, and we did not know whether this would be this night or the next day, so uncertain were we of its location.

Having found out that it was vain to try to get mules through where we had been, we started down a draw, and from now until dark our trip was easier and more interesting, as for the first time in any of our lives we went through a solid forest, consisting almost entirely of Alaska cedar, Chamaecyparis nootkatensis, many of the trees of gigantic proportions for this species. As night approached, we were traveling down, first a rill, then a small creek, and the flats on both sides, as well as the slopes, were a tangled mass of Devil's Club, known scientifically as Echinopanax horridum by some botanists, or Fatsia horrida by others. My kind friends, did any of you ever have the doubtful pleasure of forcing your way through Devil's Club by night? If you haven't you still have one experience you will never forget. By nine p.m. we were every now and then firing off our rifle to see whether we could be answered from camp. Finally, we were delighted to hear answering shots in the distance. By ten p.m. we had reached camp, but not to sleep! The next day we spent most of the time in pulling out or even cutting out the prickles of Devil's Club from our faces, hands, and arms, and rubbing the parts with bacon rind, as we had no other curatives. For the next week our faces and arms were swollen and sore, and I suppose it was due to our splended health that no one of us was affected by blood poisoning, as is the fate of many who pass through this cursed brush!

We hadn't advanced our camp ten miles from this spot when one evening, while cutting boughs and trimming them for my bed, I was unlucky enough to cut my wrist very severely with my hatchet, just missing a large artery, but severing several veins. Not a thing did we have in camp, either for sewing up the wound or for a germicide, so I resorted to that wholesome material I had so often used before for smaller cuts or contusions, namely, the pure, clear balsam from fir-blisters. The following morning, as the time I could spend with the party was nearly up anyway, the Lieutenant sent me out on one of the mules, accompanied by my good friend and occasional assistant, Corporal Fisher. At the end of the second day I was home, where I let a surgeon look at my wound. So perfect had been the curative and antiseptic properties of the balsam, that the doctor decided to let well enough alone, and my wound was soon healed after he had, however, taken a few stitches to hold it together. It was a source of regret to me not to have continued with the party, as the Lieutenant finally saw, as had most of us for a long time, that the only way to get through was to send back the mules, take packs upon our backs, and then make the ascent of Olympus and thence go down the rivers to the west. Far greater was my disappointment at not continuing, and thus finding many more new plants. However, this was rectified by Professor Piper's going over all the ground a few years after, when several new plants were found.

* (now Petrophytum hendersonii)



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