

Bulletin of the
**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
OF OREGON**

Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study
of Oregon's native vegetation

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1991

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OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

IMPORTANT NOTE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Field trips take place rain or shine, so proper dress and footwear are essential. Trips may be strenuous and/or hazardous. Please contact the trip leader for information about difficulty, mileage, and terrain. Participation is at your own risk. Bring water and lunch. All NPSO activities are open to the public at no charge (other than carpool mileage), and friends, newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

Notice to field trip chairs and leaders: The Forest Service and other Federal agencies have set policies limiting group size in wilderness areas to 12. The reason for this is to limit the human impact on these fragile areas. Each group using wilderness must be no larger than 12.

Blue Mountain

For information, call Jerry Baker {566-2244}.

Corvallis

21 Oct., Mon.

MEETING. 7:30pm in Herbarium Library (Rm. 4083) Cordley Hall, OSU. John Christy of the Nature Conservancy will talk on "Lake Labish and Other Ghost Stories--Vanished Wetlands in the Willamette Valley". Note change of date because of Columbus Day holiday. For more info., call Esther McEvoy {754-0893}.

26 Oct., Sat.

FIELD TRIP. Mushrooming with Dan Luoma. Leave from the parking lot across from the Monroe Campus Beanery at 8am. Bring lunch, raingear, and a basket. Fieldtrip will return around 5pm. For more info., call Dan Luoma {758-8063}.

27 Oct., Sun.

FIELD TRIP. "Lichen Identification" with Bruce McCune. Meet at the parking lot across from the Monroe Campus Beanery at 10am. We will return about 2pm. For more info., call Esther McEvoy {754-0893}.

Emerald

16 Oct., Wed.

MEETING. 7:30 pm in the Library, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene. Rhoda Love will show slides and speak on: "What's Going on with the Western Hawthorns? Adventures in Mt. St. Helens Country." For more information, call Jenny Dimling, 343-3242. Note: This meeting has been moved from Monday to Wednesday because of the Columbus Day Holiday.

13 Nov., Wed.

MEETING. 7:30 pm in the Library, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene. Peter Zika will show slides and speak on: "Changes in the Alpine Flora of New England in the last 100 years." For more information, call Jenny Dimling, 343-3242. Note: This meeting has been moved from Monday to Wednesday because of the Veteran's Day Holiday.

9 Dec., Mon.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL. 7:30 pm at Rhoda Love's house, 393 FulVue Drive, Eugene. (Take South Willamette St., then Crest Drive, turn left a block above Wayne Morse Ranch Park.) Holiday Party with snack potluck and potpourri of members' slides. Bring a snack and 10-15 of your favorite slides of 1991. For more information, call Rhoda Love at 345-6241.

High Desert

For information, call Bill Hopkins (388-7434).

Mid-Columbia

2 Oct., Wed.

MEETING. 7:30pm at the Mosier School. Pat Wood, local proprietor of Wood's Native Plants, will present his "One Man's Approach to Native Plant Propagation" as the featured program.

6 Nov., Wed.

MEETING. 7:30pm at the Mosier School. Nancy Lackford, the Pacific Yew Coordinator for the US Forest Service, will give us a comprehensive overview of the Pacific yew, including its characteristics, historical use, marketing and conservation efforts.

North Coast

29 Oct., Thurs.

MEETING. 7pm at the Tillamook People's Utility District, Carl Rawe Meeting Room, 1115 Pacific, Tillamook. Al Krampert will continue his presentation on plant morphology. For more information call Jim Winslow (842-2246) after 5pm.

19 Oct., Sat.

FIELD TRIP. Learn about wild mushrooms with Jaylen Jones. Our annual mushroom walk will be at Cape Meares State Park. Meet at 10am at cape Meares State Park lower parking lot. For carpooling meet at the Tillamook PUD parking lot at 9:30am. For more informatin call Jim Winslowt (842-2246) after 5pm.

Portland

8 Oct., Tue.

MEETING. 7pm at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Nancy Fredricks will give a presentation on *Calochortus*.

19 Oct., Sun.

FIELD TRIP: Bayocean Spit. Easy 5 mile hike along the east side of the spit. Leave 10am from the Bayocean Spit Parking Area. Leaders: Mike & Nancy Fahey {206-694-2902}.

Siskiyou

10 Oct., Thurs.

MEETING. Dr. Paul Lemon, ecologist and Adjunct Professor of Biology at Southern Oregon State College will present a talk and slides on his recent trip to the tropical rain forest in Brazil. 7:30pm in Room 171 of the Science Building at Southern Oregon State College. The public is invited. For information, call David Kennedy (535-6383).

24 Oct., Thurs.

MEETING. Members interested in conservation will meet to discuss issues including monitoring and listing of rare plants in southern Oregon. 7:30pm, 496 Beach St., Ashland. For information call Darlene Southworth (w-552-6865 or h-488-1034).

Umpqua Valley

15 Oct., Tues.

MEETING. Plant communities and soil types on different landforms and parent materials in Douglas County by David Turcotte of the USDA Soil Conservation Service. 7pm in the Douglas County Court house, Roseburg.

19 Oct., Sat.

FIELD TRIP. Carpool from the BLM parking lot, 777 Garden Valley Rd., Roseburg at 8am. Plant communities and soil types on different landforms and parent materials (in Douglas County's geologic "Bermuda Triangle") lead by David Turcotte of the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Willamette Valley

21 Oct., Mon.

MEETING. 7pm at First United Methodist Church, Room 225, 600 State St., Salem. Dr. Ken Chambers presents "Does Every Species Really Count?"

William Cusick

For information, contact Paula Brooks (523-7564).

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS....

We have 22 new members to report!

<u>Blue Mountain Chapter</u>	Valerie Madison
<u>Corvallis Chapter</u>	Elizabeth Starker Cameron
<u>Emerald Chapter</u>	Betty Kirsch Daniel A. Conklin George Sugai Katherine Pipes Patricia Thomassen
<u>High Desert Chapter</u>	Cindy Jeffers Greg R. McClarren Joseph Jones Kathy Lloyd & Drake Barton Robert & Julia Johnson Sheryl Shoaf
<u>North Coast Chapter</u>	Elizabeth Meyer Gloria Schwab
<u>Portland Chapter</u>	Elsie Grooms Josh & Barbara Wall Paula Pearson McNamee Roger M. Brewer
<u>Siskiyou Chapter</u>	Yvonne C. Lowery
<u>Umpqua Valley Chapter</u>	Dennis J. Phillips
<u>Willamette Valley Chapter</u>	Danae Yurgel & David Tift

BUNCHBERRY IN OREGON: *CORNUS CANADENSIS* OR *CORNUS UNALASCHKENSIS* ?

There is an old botanical joke to the effect that *Cornus*, the genus of dogwood, can be recognized by its "bark." This can hardly be true, however, of *Cornus canadensis* (bunchberry or dwarf cornel) which is an herb only a few inches tall, lacking both wood and bark, and forming an extensive groundcover by means of creeping rhizomes. Its relationship to the more familiar arborescent species of *Cornus*, such as our native flowering dogwood, *C. nuttallii*, and its widely cultivated eastern relative *C. florida*, is evident only in technical features of the inflorescence--including the four white, petal-like bracts which surround a head-like cluster of tiny flowers. As in all *Cornus* species, the fruits of bunchberry are drupes ("berry" is botanically a misnomer), and each individual flower has four sepals, four petals, four stamens, and a single style. The leaves are always opposite (two per node), but in *C. canadensis* the upper two to three pairs are very closely spaced and appear to be whorled at the tip of the stem.

Cornus canadensis is not only one of America's best known and most attractive wildflowers but is also a favored horticultural subject for temperate-zone gardens. Its natural range--as given in most current reference books--is throughout Canada, Alaska, and the northern tier of states of the "lower 48," south in the Rocky Mountains to New Mexico and along the Pacific Coast to northwestern California. It is also found disjunctly in eastern Asia, from Korea and China to northern Japan. There is only one other herbaceous species of dogwood, *Cornus suecica*, a plant of northern Europe ("suecica" is Latin for "Swedish"), Greenland, eastern Canada, Alaska, and coastal eastern Asia. As shown in Figure 1, below, this very close relative of *C. canadensis* has several pairs of stem leaves (instead of one or none) and only a single leaf pair at the tip of the flowering stem (instead of a "whorl" of four to six); also, its flower cluster is purplish rather than greenish-yellow as in *C. canadensis*. The widespread boreal distribution patterns of these two species are thus not identical (e.g., *C. canadensis* is absent from Europe, while *C. suecica* is not present in central and western Canada nor in the United States south of Alaska); nonetheless, they overlap in eastern Canada, Alaska, and eastern Asia.

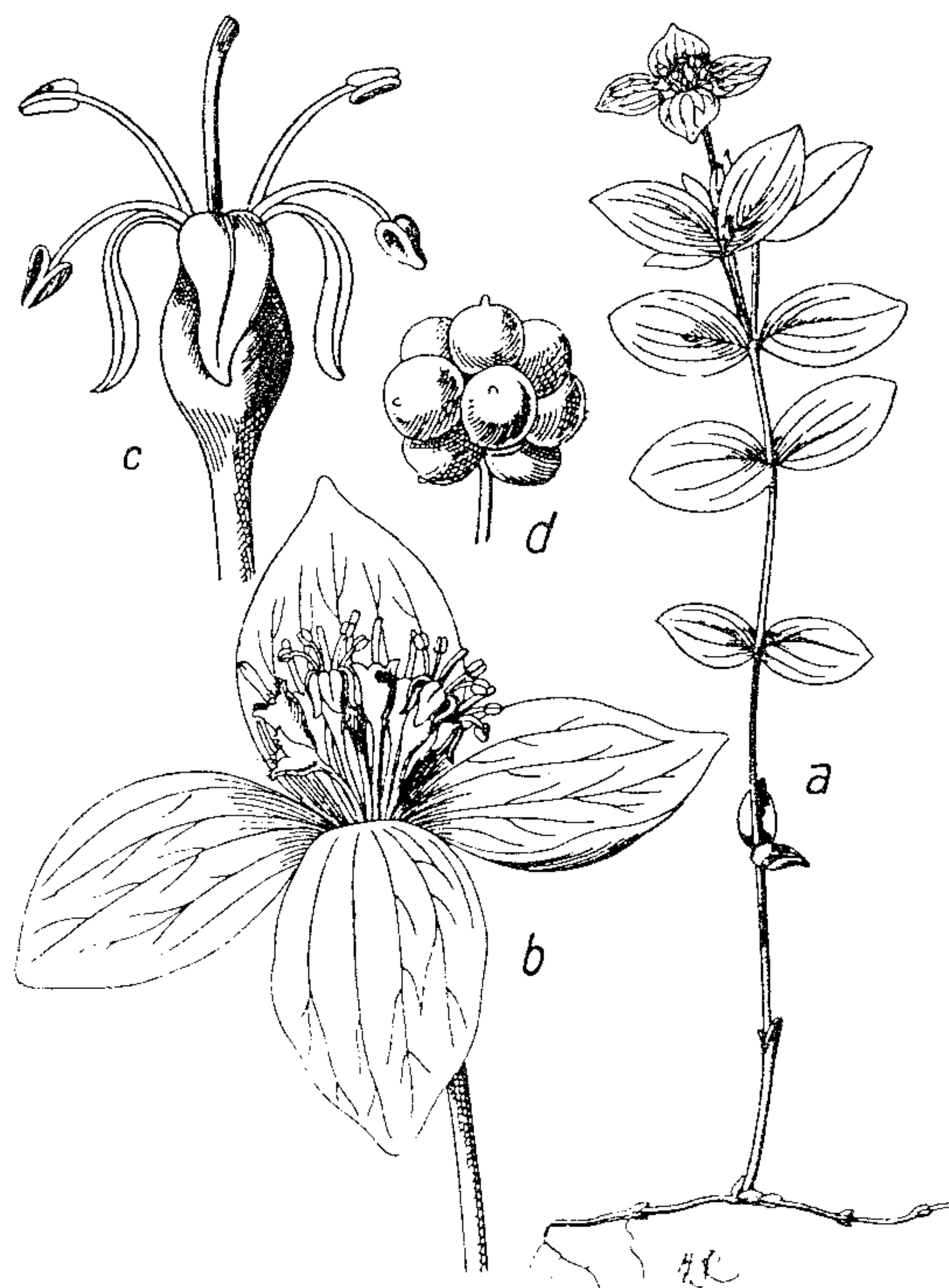


Figure 1 *Cornus suecica* from Gustav Hegi's "Illustrated Flora of Middle Europe,"

For such a well-known species as *Cornus canadensis*, we would hardly expect a question could arise concerning its identity and correct scientific name. Yet in recent floristic publications covering western Canada, taxonomists James Calder and Roy Taylor have proposed using the name *Cornus unalaschkensis* for nearly all the "*C. canadensis*" plants of coastal and southwestern British Columbia, plus Washington, Oregon, and California. Their evidence, which has also been supported in studies by John Bain and Keith Denford of the University of Alberta, is based on the known ability of *C. canadensis* and *C. suecica* to hybridize with each other (in those areas of Alaska and eastern Canada where their natural ranges overlap). Botanists working on the floras of Alaska and eastern Canada have long been aware that hybrids can be found between these two kinds of bunchberries, wherever the species occur together. The assumption has been, however, that these morphologically intermediate plants were infertile and propagated themselves only by rhizomes; under such circumstances, they would not deserve separate species status.

The critical discovery made by the Canadian botanists cited above, however, is that many of the Northwest American plants presently called "*Cornus canadensis*"--especially in areas with a maritime rather than continental climate--not only have a hybrid-like morphology but are tetraploids. That is, their chromosome number (44) is twice the usual number found in diploid *C. canadensis* and *C. suecica* (22). Like many other plant species that have hybrid origins and doubled chromosome numbers, the tetraploids are reproductively fertile and genetically distinct from their original parents; therefore, they are evolutionarily and biologically a separate species. The name *Cornus unalaschkensis* was given to such plants a century-and-a-half ago by German botanist Carl Ledebour, an authority on the flora of Russia (Alaska was then a part of the Russian Empire). Recent collections of bunchberries from Unalaska Island--the type locality--were examined by Bain and Denford and have the cell-size characteristics of tetraploids; therefore, the species properly must bear the name assigned to it by Ledebour.

If we agree that *Cornus unalaschkensis* is a separate species from *C. canadensis*, then the former name is apparently correct for all bunchberries in Oregon. I have examined "*Cornus canadensis*" collections in the OSU Herbarium and verified that everything we have from southwestern British Columbia, Washington (from the Cascades to the coast), and Oregon (even as far east as the Wallowa Mountains and south to Klamath County) is *Cornus unalaschkensis*. Taxonomically, then, for Oregon we have no problem--we can simply switch names from *canadensis* to *unalaschkensis* without worrying about how to tell which species is which, morphologically. Elsewhere in Canada and the western United States, however, it seems to me (based on available herbarium specimens) that *C. unalaschkensis* very much resembles *canadensis* in leaf shape and growth form (whorled upper leaves, with a pair of reduced leaves at the next lower node). The one most consistent difference is in flower color, referring not to the bracts of the inflorescence (white in both species) but to the petals of the tiny, clustered flowers. In *Cornus canadensis* proper, the petals are greenish-yellow, whereas in *C. unalaschkensis* they are purplish on the tip and mid-line, and yellowish at the edges and base (bicolored petals, in other words). This coloration is the only clearcut characteristic inherited from its *C. suecica* parent, which has dark purple petals; all other traits appear to be variable and only subtly different from *C. canadensis*.

I have not yet seen any scientific articles discussing the distribution of *Cornus unalaschkensis* in states to the east. The OSU herbarium has specimens of it from Idaho, and it has been reported from as far east as Colorado. Another unanswered question is if there are spots in the US or Canada where *C. unalaschkensis* and *C. canadensis* (in the narrow sense, having yellow petals and 22 chromosomes) exist together. Only a slight morphological difference distinguishes these two, making them 'cryptic species' in the terminology of systematists. This phrase implies that closely related species of a given genus may be biologically distinct to the same degree as "normal species," but show only a minor amount of morphological divergence. Superficially these two species look very much alike, but at a deeper biological level, the hybrid origin and doubled chromosome number of *C. unalaschkensis* strongly argue against lumping it taxonomically under *C. canadensis*.

There must have been two or more periods in the history of these species when hybridization occurred between *canadensis* and *suecica*. Today, where they grow together in the far north, active exchange of genes leads to sterile diploid hybrids having 22 chromosomes and a distinctly intermediate morphology. A much earlier cycle of hybridization in preglacial times probably produced *C. unalaschkensis* through chromosome doubling, stabilization of its characteristic morphologic and ecologic features, and establishment of a discrete geographical range south of the continental ice sheets. After the retreat of the glaciers, it migrated northward in British Columbia and southern Alaska. All aspects of this historical narrative need further study and scientific verification, however. The questions posed by these bunchberries are typical of the many unsolved puzzles so characteristic of Oregon's fascinating native flora.

--Ken Chambers
Corvallis Chapter

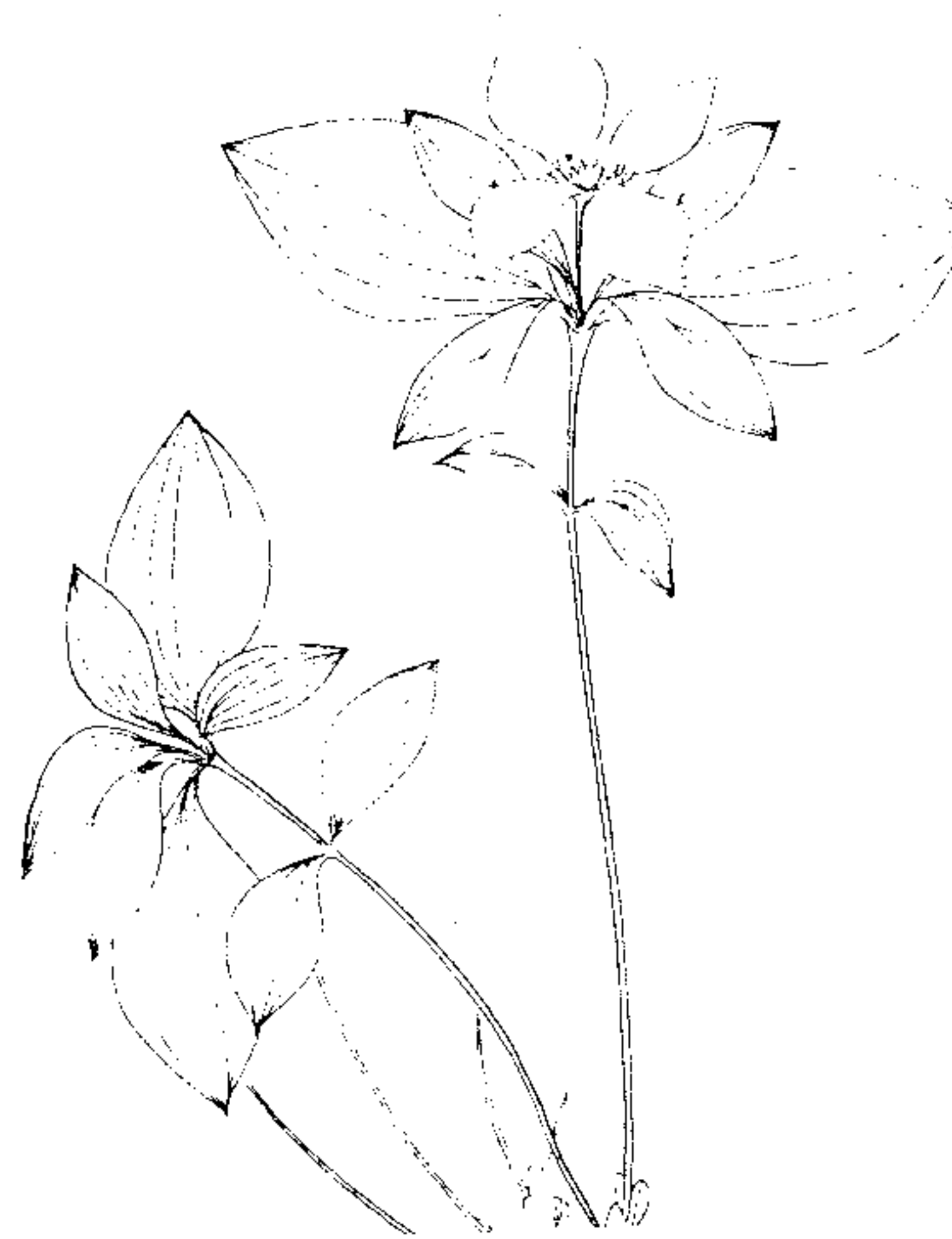


Figure 2 *C. unalaschkensis* from Calder and Taylor's "Flora of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS OF IRON MOUNTAIN PEAKS

Iron Mountain and its neighboring peaks (Cone Peak, North and South Peaks, Browder Ridge and Echo Mtn.) are among the most popular recreation destinations in the central Old Cascades. These peaks are enjoyed by thousands each summer who seek the spectacular wildflower displays, high elevation meadows, geologic formations and beautiful vistas. Several chapters of NPSO visit the Iron Mtn./Echo Mtn. Special Interest Area each year.

The Sweet Home Ranger District recognizes that growing use has the potential to adversely impact the unique environments of Iron Mountain and neighboring peaks. In an effort to plan for long-term recreational use of the Iron Mountain peaks, we are seeking input and interest from the public. We are forming the Friends of Iron Mountain Peaks, a non-profit group that will advise and assist in determining the recreational focus and projects in this special area.

We would like to extend a special invitation to Native Plant Society members to join the Friends of Iron Mountain Peaks. Your devotion to mountain environments and enjoyment of outdoor recreation would make you an especially valuable member of the Friends. There is a tremendous range of projects and issues with which a Friends member could become involved: trail system planning; brochure and signage projects; safety and sanitation issues; trail maintenance programs; volunteer trail guides/interpreters; rehabilitation and recovery of fragile areas; research, inventory, and monitoring projects. Your level of involvement and choice of focus will be determined by your personal interests.

We plan to hold our first Friends meeting in November. At that time we will establish goals and objectives and try to prioritize some projects for 1992. Please consider lending some of your dedication and energy to conserving the special character of these Old Cascades peaks and determining the long-term direction of recreation programs in the area. Let us know if you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Iron Mountain Peaks.

Mandy Cole
Sweet Home Ranger District
3325 Hwy. 20
Sweet Home OR 97386
{503} 367-5168

NEW COASTAL BOTANICAL PRESERVES ... OR MORE OFF-ROAD-VEHICLE AREAS?

The Siuslaw National Forest is pondering alternatives for two proposed Research Natural Areas (RNAs) within the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area near Reedsport.

Recall that the federal RNA program tries to identify and set aside small but high quality baseline areas representing the full spectrum of ecological types in each state. These are used for passive research purposes such as studying plant succession and defining the botanical constituents in naturally evolving communities. Generally, an area is only nominated after an extensive examination of the remaining options. Each site is unique---no duplication of features is allowed. Compatible uses (here, hiking) are allowed---RNAs are not lock-ups. Research areas are specifically allowed in the 1972 enabling legislation for the ODNRA.

Tenmile Creek, below Reedsport, is a rare intact coastal dune mosaic, featuring a host of specialized plant communities such as tree islands and mature coastal coniferous zones. It has been targeted by ORV pressure groups who want an access road to yet another mass staging area. Three-mile Creek, on the north Umpqua spit, has nearly unique parabolic dunes and a more extensive deflation plane (with associated rare plants such as *Lycopodium inundatum*). It is in an earlier seral stage and is crucial for understanding plant succession in this environment. The area is under unsustainable use by mushroom collectors.

Introduced species (European beachgrass, gorse, and Scot's broom) have wreaked havoc along the Oregon coast through foredune stabilization. Many people talk about restoration, but without remaining natural areas, how will we know what the goal should be, much less how to get there? The Siuslaw may be heading for a 'compromise': trash one of the areas for all eternity and protect the other, at least on paper. Our Chapter would like to see **both** RNAs established.

Your letter can make a difference. Write today:
Renata McNair, Area Ranger
Oregon Dunes NRA
855 Highway Avenue
Reedsport, Oregon 97467

--Tom Pringle,
Emerald Chapter

**STATE BOARD MEETS
OCTOBER 5TH**

Ever wonder how the Native Plant Society of Oregon manages its diverse statewide activities? Your next chance to see our far-flung State Board organization in action is Saturday Oct. 5th, 10am at the Mosier School in Mosier Ore. in the Columbia River Gorge. All NPSO Board meetings are open to the public and members are encouraged to attend and participate.

The voting members of the State Board of the NPSO include State Officers, Chapter Presidents, and the Directors of the organization. A quorum is needed at each meeting to conduct business. Each Board member has a report to make on the activities they direct or oversee, as do all state committee chairs. In an organization such as ours communications are essential in carrying out our purposes and in reaching our goals. Attendance by all Board members is needed to assure the clearest communications possible within our organization. If Board members or committee chairs cannot attend, they should either send a representative or submit a written report to the secretary before the meeting.

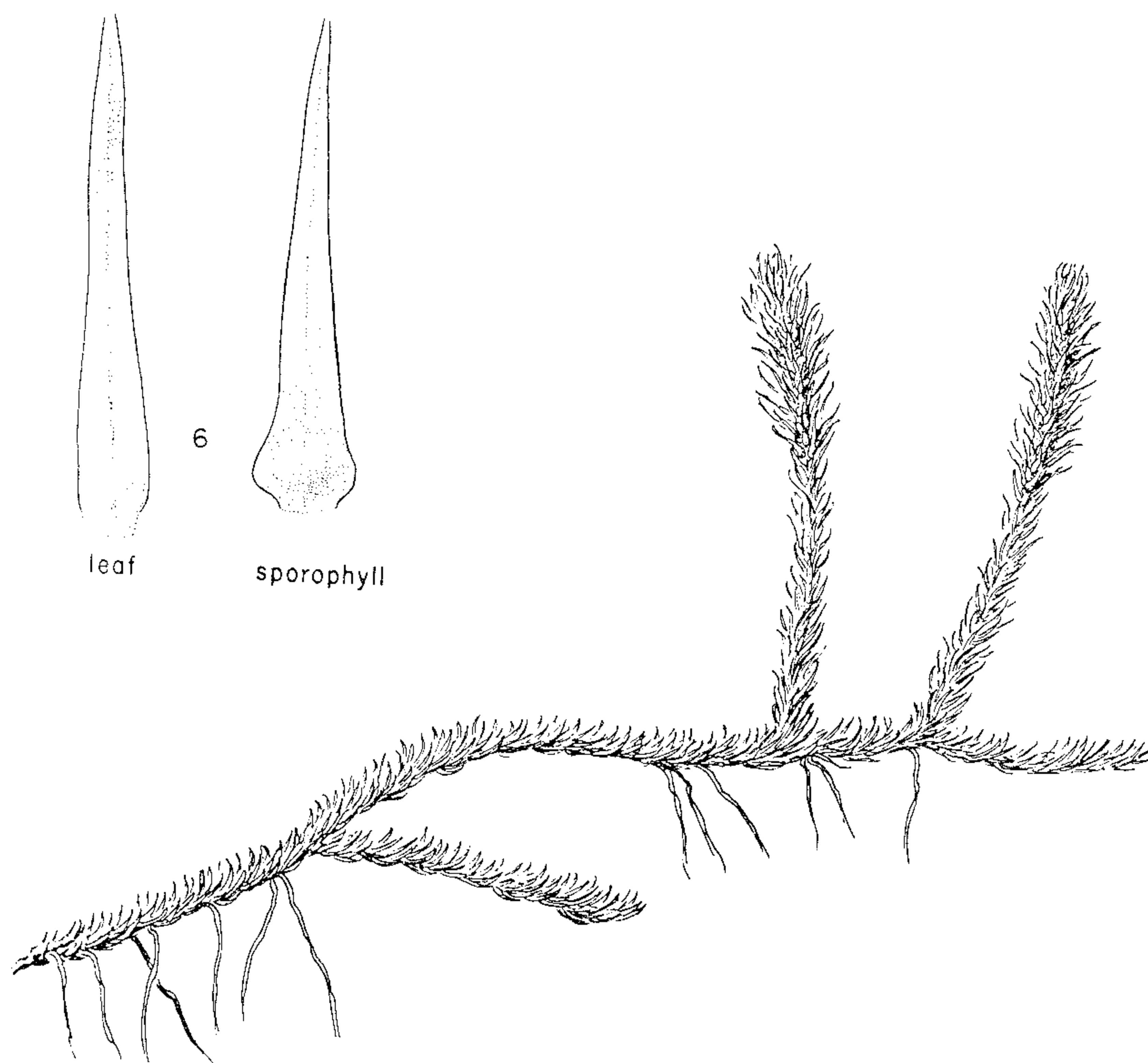
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Lycopodium inundatum
From Hitchcock & Cronquist's
Flora of the Pacific Northwest
Drawn by Jeanne R. Janish

BITS AND PIECES

---NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM ALL OVER

COAST AND OCEAN CONFERENCE

The 2nd Annual Coast and Ocean Conference will be hosted by the Oregon Natural Resources Council this November 2nd and 3rd at the Shiloh Inn in Newport, Oregon.

A variety of speakers will make presentations in their areas of expertise. Topics will include offshore oil development, oil spill clean-up, Coastal land use, Coastal forests, and threats to Coastal species and their habitats.

Registration for the weekend will be \$45 including lunch. For more information, call ONRC at 223-9001.

MUSHROOM SHOW AND FALL FESTIVAL

The Mount Pisgah Arboretum is hosting the 10th Annual Mushroom Show and Fall Festival on October 27th. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about our fascinating, often colorful wild mushrooms. Hundreds of freshly collected specimens will be on display. Experts will be on hand to identify fungi brought in by visitors.

Expert trail guides will be on hand to lead nature walks for adults and children. Plants and seeds will be offered for sale. Food and drink will be available, including fresh-pressed cider and wild mushrooms. The cookbook Mushroom Madness will be on sale, with all proceeds going to the Arboretum. A Scarecrow Contest is being added this year.

Situated in Buford Park, off Seavey Loop Road on the Coast Fork of the Willamette River about six miles southeast of Eugene, Mount Pisgah Arboretum is being developed by The Friends of Mount Pisgah Arboretum, a non-profit association. Its purpose is to encourage the appreciation of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ecology. It is open free of charge year-round. For more information, call them at {503}-747-3817.

HIKING MAP LOCATES OLD GROWTH AND TRAILS LEADING TO IT!

A new attractive topographical trail map, with areas of old growth nicely shaded green, was released this summer by creators Peter Eberhardt and John and Diane Cissel. It includes 50 hikes into old growth within the Willamette National Forest, with a full description of each outing. Trailheads for each hike are within 45 minutes to 3 hours from anywhere in the Willamette Valley. Directions and a map to the trailheads are included, as well as trail narratives. Another valuable feature is an article about the nature of old growth, which is tied in with descriptive information about mapping symbols. The map legend is clear and easy to use.

Each trail has been hiked by the authors since August 1990. The full range of old growth ecosystems found in the Willamette National Forest are included in the map. Trail narratives clearly describe the nature of the old growth along each trail, as well as difficulty of the hike. The information given will make it easy for anyone to zero in on areas of old growth for a day hike.

Here is one of the shorter trail descriptions:

“11. **Echo Basin** - This is a short (1 1/2 miles) loop trail through a very interesting and diverse glacial basin. After passing through a plantation the trail enters a cold-hardy forest of Alaska yellow cedar, noble fir, Pacific silver fir, and meadows. Some impressive old-growth yellow cedar (over 6' diameter) and noble fir are scattered along the trail.” Anyone wishing to go, please give your editor a call!

The map is available from your local book or map store. It is also available from the creators in both folded and unfolded poster form. To order send a check for \$7.50 to:

Old Growth Day Hikes
PO Box 11288
Eugene, OR 97440

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The NPSO *Bulletin* is published monthly as a service to NPSO members and the public. Contributions of all types are welcome.
DEADLINE Copy is due with the editor by the 10th of each month.
Text Format: Submissions can be in any form. Camera-ready copy should be in 3.334 in. wide columns up to 9.3 in. long, with .22 in column spacing. The *Bulletin* uses 12pt. 'Times' font. Author's name and affiliation are added at the end of the article. Do not indent but double space between paragraphs. For special materials (e.g., plant keys) choose an appropriate format, keeping in mind that readers may wish to carry your article pasted inside their favorite field guide.
Computer output: The editor prefers articles submitted on Macintosh or IBM disks, or via Macintosh modem. Contact the editor for details.

Illustrations: Line drawings, prints, and high contrast B&W prints are useable. Some Macintosh graphics can be used also. Contact the editor about our current needs, or send them along with your article.
Credits: If the item is not original, name and date the source. For original items, identify the author and indicate, for news items, if a by-line is desired. Indicate whether the item is to be used in its entirety or excerpted at the editor's discretion.
Scientific Names: Nomenclature should follow *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* by Hitchcock et al., when appropriate. Use both scientific and common names if possible. *Italicize* genus and species (underline if italic is not available).
Return of Originals: Submissions are not returned unless requested.

Membership in the Native Plant Society of Oregon is open to all.
 Membership applications, renewals, and changes of address (include old address and zip code) should be sent to the Membership Chair.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ Chapter (if known) _____
 Address _____ **Is this a change of address?**
 If so, please write your *Old Address* here: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____ - _____
 Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

* **DUES** include monthly NPSO *Bulletin*. Full membership is for a calendar year, January through December. New memberships enrolled during September through December are charged a reduced "Quarter Membership" rate.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| () New | () Renewal | () Quarter Membership (Sep.-Dec.) \$3.00 | () <i>Bulletin</i> Subscription only \$12.00 |
| () Student.....\$ 8.00 | () Sustaining.....\$ 30.00 | () Regular.....12.00 | () Patron.....100.00 |
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* **CONTRIBUTIONS:**
 Jean Davis Memorial Award Fund. \$ _____
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* All contributions to the Native Plant Society of Oregon, a non-profit organization, are tax deductible. Please make checks for dues and contributions payable to NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON. Send completed form and full remittance to:
Jan Dobak, NPSO Membership Chair, 2584 NW Savier St., Portland OR 97210-2412.

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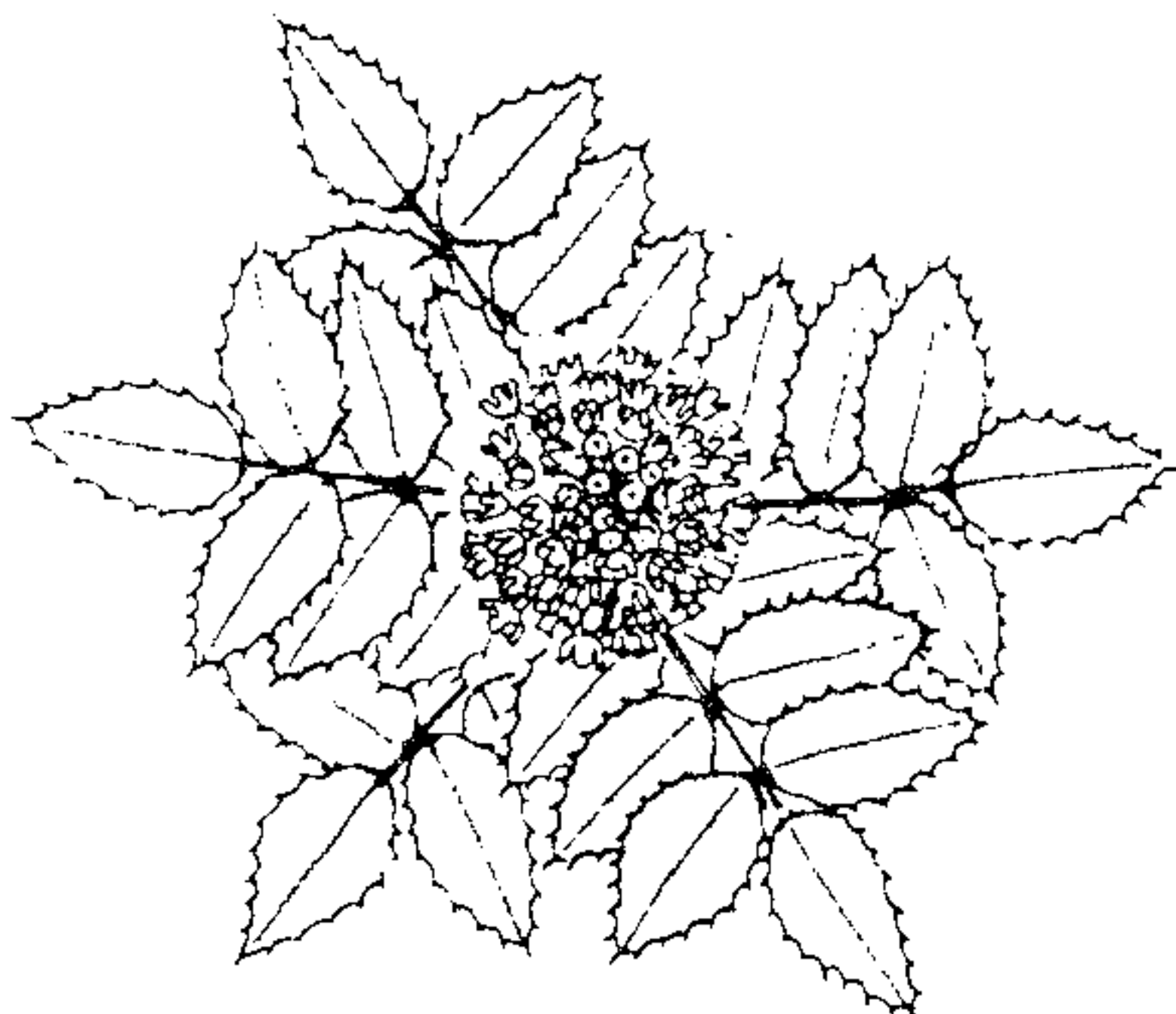
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Address Correction Requested
*Send change of address notices
and membership requests to:*
Native Plant Society of Oregon
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Portland, Oregon 97210-2412

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