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# Sarracenia

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Volume 9, Number 1

Spring 1999

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Newsletter of The Wildflower Society of Newfoundland & Labrador

## Wildflower Walks 1999

### St. Mary's Bay

Explore the Salmonier area and Point La Haye beach on Sunday, June 13. Those leaving from town meet in the parking lot of the Arts & Culture Centre at 9:00 am or meet 10:00 am at the old bridge in Salmonier. Lunch at the Salmonier Country Manor, Mount Carmel.

### Wildflowers of Water Street

June 6, July 4, August 1, September 12.  
Meet 2:00 pm at the War Memorial. Duration 2 hrs. Leaders: Howard and Leila Clase (753-6415)

### Bell Island

Regatta Day, August 4.  
Meet at the ferry dock, Portugal Cove, around 9:30 am. Leaving on the 10:00 am ferry.  
Fares: \$5 (\$4.50 for seniors) for vehicle & driver, \$3 for passengers, \$2 for children.  
(Please call Ferry Services: 895-6931 to confirm the time. Sometimes there are slight changes in the summer schedule. At the time of this publication there was a 10:00 am

crossing but I was advised to check before departing. If there is a change in the schedule, chose the closest time to 10:00 am)

### Manuels River

Sunday, August 8. Meet 10:00 am at the chalet. Leader: Glenda Quinn. *Hypericum ellipticum* will probably be in bloom. Bring lunch. Glenda will provide coffee & tea at her house.

### Fall Fern Frolic & Annual Pot Luck

Labour Day, Monday, September 6  
Meet 2:00 pm at the Botanical Garden.  
Leader: Todd Boland. Pot Luck to follow at the Clase's. They live behind Holland Nurseries, ignore "staff only" signs. Call Leila at 753-6415 about food arrangements.

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## Botanizing the Burin 1998

(a continuation from the previous issue of Sarracenia)

by Howard Clase.

### Grouse Point

We arrived back in Fortune in mid-afternoon on July 22nd and were soon checked into the Motel. We booked a table for dinner and then had a couple of hours for botanizing. Our target area was an area of coastal barrens on Devonian conglomerate and shale a few miles back along the highway beyond Grand Bank. On the way we went into Grand Bank to pick up Ron Noseworthy, a friend of John Maunder and fellow snail enthusiast, who was to be our guide. He lead us along a track towards the sea marked "Grouse Point" and after a kilometre or so we got out to explore an area of sparse vegetation and yellow gravelly soil. It wasn't long before we found what we were looking for, *Hudsonia ericoides*, the Golden Heather again, but here it was definitely past flowering. As on St Pierre it was growing in very well-drained poor soil without much competition from other plants. Here it was growing in an area of well-marked frost polygons.

The terrain was "hummocky" with relatively lush vegetation in the moister depressions and a surprising range of species. There were small trees and shrubs such as White Spruce *Picea mariana*, Mountain Holly *Nemopanthus mucronatus*, White birch *Betula papyrifera*, and Mountain Alder *Alnus viridis ssp. crispa*, and under these woodland species such as Twinflower *Linna borealis*, Round-leaved Pyrola *Pyrola americana*. There were bogside plants like Sweetgale *Myrica gale*, Bayberry *M. pennsylvanica*, Dwarf Huckleberry *Gaylussacia dumosa*, and Chokeberry *Aronia sp.*, bog plants like Round-leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, and even four species of *Platanthera* orchids, Smaller Purple Fringed Orchid *P. psycodes*, White Fringed Orchid *Platanthera*

*blephariglottis*, Ragged Fringed Orchid *P. lacera*, and Club-spurred Orchid *P. clavellata*. On the slightly raised barren areas as well as the *Hudsonia* there were all three species of Crowberry- Black *Empetrum nigrum*, Red *E. eamsii* and Purple *E. atropurpureum* and some very grizzled Junipers of both species, *Juniperus communis* and *J. horizontalis*.

All these were within a few tens of metres of each other and are only a selection of the 41 species I listed. Most noteworthy, in addition to the *Hudsonia ericoides*, a rare plant anywhere in Newfoundland, was *Myrica pennsylvanica* which is only reported from the tip of the Burin, St Pierre & Miquelon, Brunette Island, the nearby south coast ( we can expect to find it this summer in the Bay D'Espoir area) and the southern Bay of Islands. And according to Rouleau and Lamoureux's atlas *Pyrola americana* had not been reported from anywhere on the Burin, but Roger has seen it in a few spots before.

### Point May & Point au Gaul

Next morning we set out for Marystown the long way, around the coast road. Roger Etcheberry has also done a lot of botanizing at the bottom of the Burin and was again leading us. Our first stop was at Point May, to look in a pond which had been one of the few sites in Newfoundland for a tiny water plant called Pigmyweed *Crassula aquatica*. After dredging around in the muddy pond John Maunder found a few specimens although they were not very well developed yet. We spent some time in this area, mostly looking along the beach and in the two freshwater ponds on the land side of the track that runs parallel to the shore. Then we went on to a very similar area at Point au Gaul. Although we didn't attempt an exhaustive survey I did keep a list of the plants we noticed as we walked around. Unfortunately it is a combined list, but most of the plants were seen in both places. It is worth printing the entire list since apart from the *Crassula* none of

them has a "dot" in Rouleau and Lamoreux's Atlas for the 15 minute latitude and longitude "square" that includes Point May and Point au Gaul, not even the Common Dandelion. Several of them have no record in the Atlas anywhere on the Burin Peninsula. They are not, however, previously unknown for the area since Roger has recorded most of them on previous visits. This brings home that the atlas shows where herbarium specimens have been collected and isn't always a good guide as to where plants actually occur; some areas of the province are very under reported, especially for less botanically interesting species.

Plants<sup>1</sup> observed at Point May and Point au Gaul  
July 23, 1998

Agropyron repens *Couch Grass* \*  
 Cakile edentula *Sea Rocket*  
 Chamomilla suaevoleus *Pinappleweed*\*  
 Coronopus didymus *Lesser Swine Cress*\*  
 Crassula aquatica *Pigmyweed*  
 Galium palustre *Marsh Bedstraw*  
 Geranium bicknellii *Meadow Crane's-hill*\*  
 Heracleum lantanum *Cow Parsnip*  
 Honckenya peploides *Sea Sandwort*  
 Impatiens capensis *Spotted Touch-me-not*\*  
 Juncus bufonius *Toad Rush*\*  
 Leontodon autumnalis *Fall Dandelion*\*  
 Ligusticum scoticum *Scotch Lovage*  
 Mertensia maritima *Oysterleaf*  
 Polygonum amphibium *Amphibious Bistort*  
 Polygonum persicaria *Lady's Thumb*\*  
 Polygonum sagittatum *Arrow-leaved Tearthumb*\*  
 Potentilla anserina *Silverweed*\*  
 Ranunculus sceleratus *Cursed Buttercup*  
 Rumex triangulivalvis *Mexican Dock*\*  
 Senecio pseudo-arnica *False Arnica*  
 Senecio viscosus *Sticky Groundsel*\*  
 Senecio vulgaris *Common Groundsel*\*

<sup>1</sup> \* signifies introduced plants not native to Newfoundland

Steilaria media *Common Chickweed*\*  
 Taraxacum officinale *Common Dandelion*\*  
 Trifolium repens *White Clover*\*

Several of these are common weeds around St John's; in particular it was interesting to see Senecio viscosus, which only appeared in St John's fairly recently. On the other hand the Crassula is not the only unusual plant in the list. At Point au Gaul, we were most struck by a wonderful display of Amphibious Bistort in a pond near the sea. We had already seen this plant on the Miquelon Isthmus but in dreadful weather. Here, in the sun, we were all very much taken with the five centimeter, pinkish-red cones of small flowers set between two to four large oblong leaves floating on the pond's surface. This species has only been reported from about half a dozen widely spaced sites across the Island of Newfoundland. The other shallow water plant, Ranunculus sceleratus, is known in England as the Celery-leaved Crowfoot, which gives a pretty good picture of the plant, coarse leaved with stout stems it has very small petals which are rapidly replaced by a large conical fruit head covered with several hundred seeds. We only found one specimen of this, growing in a muddy ditch. It is also only reported from a few widely spaced locations. A single plant of Mexican Dock *Rumex triangulivalvis*, was also found growing right by the track. It is a large rambling, much branched plant, with rather pointed leaves, quite unlike the more common docks. It is also known from a few widely spaced locations in Newfoundland and there seems to be some doubt as to whether or not it is a native plant, although it is not restricted to Mexico as its name suggests. We have seen Honckenya peploides on our visits to the Northern Peninsula, the fact that it is less frequently reported further south is probably due to less botanical attention to this area rather than the plant's rarity.

After a lunch on the beach at Point au Gaul we pressed on towards Marystown, stopping at two or three places on the way looking for specific plants. At

Taylor's Bay Roger knew of a site for the rare Bur-reed *Sparganium eurycarpum* and he was pleased to see that it was spreading. This species is only known from the Burin and the central West Coast. The other plants of note we saw during a detour around "Southwest Arm", a large saltwater pond just southwest of Marystown. It was the first time I had seen an obvious specimen of *Plantago oliganthos* which differs from the more common Seaside Plantain *P. juncooides*, by having much shorter flower spikes and narrower leaves, although the exact taxonomy of these two is in some dispute. On the Marystown side of the pond Roger showed us a stand of Seaside Goldenrod *Solidago sempervirens*, which is otherwise only known from the West Coast, Lewisporte in Notre Dame Bay, and one other South Coast location, Facheux Bay.

After we had checked in to the Hotel Marystown we had our farewell dinner together in the local Chinese restaurant, which was a treat for Roger and Danielle since they have no such thing in St Pierre. (It certainly was quite good, but I'd trade the restaurant in the Hotel Miquelon for it any day!)

### Burin

However for most of us our trip wasn't over. We still had half a day for botanizing before we had to take the three hour drive back to St John's. We spend the morning and had our lunches at the attractive little town of Burin. On the way into the town we stopped by a steep cliff covered in Lady's Mantle *Alchemilla vulgaris*, probably a garden escape, but very much at home in this location. Nearby we also found some specimens of Perforated St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, so that Roger could see the difference between this and the much rarer *H. pulchrum* which we found in St Pierre. Burin has an area equivalent to an English village green surrounded by large old houses and a former bank. The bank and one of the houses are now museums, and the curator, seeing a large group of visitors milling about on the green

came down and offered to open up for us. We looked around the renovated Merchant's house and when we asked about a coffee shop he said that there wasn't a commercial one, but we were welcome to come up and use the staff facilities in the old bank, which we did. While wandering around outside we thought we saw some specimens of an unusual Bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, which was only previously known from the Trepassey area, but later we found that we had been pre-empted on this one; your editor had visited Burin earlier in the year and collected a specimen from the same spot while it was in flower.

Between coffee and lunch we took a walk along a trail constructed and maintained by the local community called Cook's Trail. It lead west from the town across to Burin Inlet, although time did not allow us to go right to the end. As well as being very scenic it was botanically interesting too. Here we found Newfoundland's only true Holly *Ilex verticillata*, (it's the right genus, but it doesn't go in for prickles!) and the Alternate-leaved Dogwood *Cornus alternifolia*, previously only reported from west and central Newfoundland, as well as many of the plants typical of boggy and barren habitats. This brought us to the end of another successful and enjoyable Wildflower Society summer field trip.

Thanks to Leila Clase, Roger Etcheberry and John Maunder for reading the draft and trying to correct my typos and other errors.

Roger tells me that the day after we had all gone back to St John's he and Danielle collected two plants in a small pond near Garnish that were hitherto unknown on the Burin: Brown Spike-Rush *Rinchosporum fusca*, and Purple Bladderwort *Utricularia purpurea*.

There is also an update on the Elegant St. John's Wort *Hypericum pulchrum*, reported in the first part of this account. Many years ago Roger had sent Ernest Rouleau a specimen of the St. Pierre *Hypericum* as *H. perforatum*, the common one in

Newfoundland. He asked Stuart Hay to have another look at it and received the following reply - translated from the French - "The *Hypericum* specimen is really and truly *Hypericum pulchrum*. I have compared it with specimens from Europe in my herbarium. Very interesting!"

N.B. For consistency, the Linnean names used in these two articles follow those used in the following reference since it is the most recently published complete list for the area, even though I know that there have been some more recent revisions. I'm not taking sides in taxonomical disputes!

#### Reference.

Rouleau, E. & Lamoureux, G. "Atlas of the vascular plants of the island of Newfoundland and of the islands of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon". Fleurbec, Quebec, 1992.

## Newfoundland's Gentians and Their Cousins

by Todd Boland

Most people have heard of gentians and even novice gardeners can tell you they are typically blue-flowered alpine. Dioscorides and Pliny tell of a King Gentius of Illyria who ordered a remedy against plague to be prepared from the leaves and roots of a plant introduced to him by Hermes. The plant was then named in honour of King Gentius and this name was later applied to the entire genus. It is not possible to say how many species the genus *Gentiana* comprises; various literatures give numbers ranging from 200 species to over 600! Add other close relatives from the Gentian family (*Gentianaceae*) and the numbers top 1000! Thankfully, very few grow native on the island of Newfoundland, which makes a description of our local *Gentianaceae* a reasonable task.

Historically, the island portion of Newfoundland had three gentians. I say historically, because in recent years the genus has been split to include a new genus, *Gentianella*. The morphological features which distinguish *Gentianella* from *Gentiana* are not very striking; everything centers on the membranous folds or plicae connecting the corolla segments, which are present in *Gentiana* but absent in *Gentianella*.

So, more correctly, the island portion of Newfoundland has a single *Gentiana* and two *Gentianella*. Our local 'gentians' are all native to limestone areas of western Newfoundland and in particular, the Great Northern Peninsula. They generally grow in gravelly, often wet areas or in calcareous turfy areas. Those of us who traveled to the Great Northern Peninsula several August's ago with the Wildflower Society, saw 'gentians' in all their glory. Generally, our 'gentians' bloom in from mid-July through early September. Of the three species, our one true *Gentiana*, *Gentiana nesophila* is probably the loveliest. It certainly has the largest flowers of any local *Gentianaceae*. This species is the most noticeable; plants commonly grow from 5-10 cm high and generally branch from the base, resulting in several upright stems, each topped by a single relatively large mid-blue flower. Unfortunately, the flowers rarely open fully, except on very warm, sunny days. The leaves are typically pale green and paired, with leaves clasping the stem. According to Gray's Manual of Botany, they are native only to Newfoundland and the nearby Mingan and Anticosti Islands. In areas, they may be very common.

Our other two 'gentians', *Gentianella amarella* and *Gentianella propinqua* do not appear to be as common, but it may be simply that they are more easily overlooked. These two species appear very similar to each other. They often grow taller (up to 20 cm) than *Gentiana nesophila* and their flowers are smaller and more of a lilac or lavender shade. Both may be branched or unbranched, but typically,

several flowers are produced per stem. Their flowers do not fully open and thus appear tube-like. The main way to differentiate between the two species is by the length of the pedicel and corolla tube.

*Gentianella amarella* generally has pedicels shorted in length than the corolla tube, and the corolla tube itself just extends beyond the calyx. *Gentianella propinqua* has pedicels that are much longer than the corolla tube and the corolla tube itself is twice the length of the calyx. They both have pale olive-green leaves that clasp the stem in pairs. These two species are distributed in the appropriate habitats around the Gulf of St. Lawrence area then across the arctic to the Rockies. *Gentianella propinqua* even extends into NE Asia.

We have five more native wildflowers that are members of the Gentian family. The most attractive gentian relative we have is the Marsh Felwort, *Lomatogonium rotatum* (at least in my opinion). Before it blooms, this plant looks very similar to *Gentianella propinqua* or *Gentianella amarella*; they generally produce multiple branched stems from the base (they appear quite bushy) and have paired, olive-green leaves that clasp the stem. Plants reach 10-20 cm. and grow along turfy or sandy shorelines, generally in calcareous areas. They are not particularly common in Newfoundland, but we did see plants on the Wildflower Society's field trip to Cape Freels. The stems produce many short-pedicelled, porcelain-blue, star-like flowers about 1.5 cm across from mid-July to mid-August. The flowers only open on sunny days.

The Spurred Gentian, *Halenia deflexa*, also appears very similar to *Gentianella propinqua* when in leaf. The plants are compact, bushy, and generally 10-15 cm high. Their flowers are quite unusual; the 4-5 petals are quite pointed and closed together while the base of the petals are elongated into spur-like projections. Flowers are often greenish, with a purple tint and bloom from late July to early September. They also grow along turfy or gravelly

shorelines but are not restricted to calcareous areas, hence they occur island-wide. We have a subspecies called *bretoniana* which is more compact than the type and is distributed on the island and nearby Cape Breton Island and Mingan Island. The species itself is holarctic in distribution.

*Bartonia paniculata*, sometimes called Screw-stem, is relatively rare on the island. Plants are very slender and sometimes twine around other plants. Stems generally reach 10-30 cm and have very scattered, small, scale-like, yellow-green opposite leaves. The flowers are also minute and straw yellow in colour with purple anthers. They grow in wet peaty areas. They are by far the least showy of our local 'gentians'. Geographically, they are distributed from Newfoundland south to Florida and west to Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Overall, native annual plants are rare in Newfoundland, but the above members of the Gentianaceae are in fact annuals or biennials.

The last two members of the Gentianaceae are aquatic plants; one very common, the other quite rare. The common aquatic member is the Buckbean or Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*. These plants creep, via relatively thick rhizomes, along the surface of shallow, muddy ponds and quagmires. The shiny, leathery leaves consist of three oval leaflets atop a long petiole. In June-July, slender flower stems arise and produce a raceme of intricately beautiful white, hairy flowers. They are often locally abundant. Bogbeans have a holarctic distribution.

The last gentian relative we have is Floating Heart *Nymphoides cordata*. This aquatic plant prefers ponds and slow streams. They are quite rare on the island. Their leaves are like small waterlilies and float on the water surface. Their small (0.5-1 cm) individually produced flowers are white with a crest-like yellow gland at the base of each petal. They occur from Newfoundland, west to Ontario and

south to Florida.

While our local 'gentians' and their cousins are not the showiest of the Gentian family, most do possess a certain charm which is often not apparent until the flowers are observed at close quarters.

While few species grow locally, several are frequently seen, especially along the Great Northern Peninsula. So when next you see a local 'gentian' stop to admire this most royal of flowers.

### Crepis tectorum L.

#### *Narrow-leaved Hawk's-beard*

New to the flora of Newfoundland and Labrador

By Henry Mann and Michael Collins

On a trip across the Trans-Labrador Highway in the first week of August, 1998 (Mann and Collins, 1999), we noted a yellow flowering composite with a milky sap as one of the most conspicuous bloomers in Wabush/Labrador City, Churchill Falls, and Happy Valley/Goose Bay. It was not, however, seen along the TLH between these centres. Assuming it to be one of the hawkweeds (Hieracium spp.) we collected a few specimens for future identification since we were not completely comfortable with off-hand identifications in this group. Hawkweeds are common everywhere; Rouleau (1978) lists 13 species for Newfoundland and Labrador so we did not expect anything particularly unusual. Several species that we recognized along roadsides were recorded including Hieracium umbellatum L., H. floribundum Wimm. and Grab., and H. caespitosum Dumort.

Upon return and examination of the pressed specimens, we realized that this was not a Hawkweed

(Hieracium), but a Hawk's-beard (Crepis). The literature at our disposal recorded only the tiny arctic Crepis nana Richardson from Labrador and Crepis biennis L. uncommonly found on the Island. Our specimen was neither of these. The various keys told us it was Crepis tectorum L., a species not recorded for insular Newfoundland or Labrador. As so often happens, an apparently mundane field observation turned out to be rather interesting both from a personal opportunity of learning about an unfamiliar species, but also from a broader biogeographical perspective.

The genus Crepis differs from Hieracium in the following ways. Crepis species are annuals or winter annuals with weak taproots characteristic of annuals. Hieracium species, on the other hand, are fibrous-rooted perennials with long or short underground rhizomes. To our mind this is one of the easiest distinguishing features. Also the pappus in Crepis (the hairs arising from the top of the ovary of each individual tiny flower) are white, whereas in Hieracium the pappus is usually sordid/tawny/light brownish rather than snow white. In Hieracium there tend to be two or more rows of overlapping green bracts (phyllaries), which enclose the base of the head, while in Crepis there tends to be only one main row with sometimes tiny ones at the base. This feature is often used to separate the two genera in keys, but is occasionally difficult to interpret as in the case of this species.

The yellow dandelion/hawkweed-like flowering heads of Crepis tectorum are rather small, usually 1.5 centimeters or less across when fully expanded at the height of flowering. If one looks closely at the inner surface of the larger green bracts (phyllaries), fine hairs can be seen with a hand lens, a feature which separates this species from some others. The pappus is of soft white hairs which enable the seeds to be borne and dispersed by the wind. Seeds at maturity are tapering elongate with

rough ridges and are dark purplish/brown in color. The common name, narrow-leaved hawk's-beard, refers to upper stem leaves which are narrow-elongate strap-shaped with smooth margins. Sometimes these linear leaves clasp the stem with small pointed lobes. Lower stem leaves become more and more toothed, often with "backward" pointing teeth. Basal leaves can sometimes be quite divided into narrow lobes. Figure 1 illustrates some of the common features of this species.

Labrador plants that we observed varied in size from 10 or 15 centimeters tall to 0.6 meters. Standard manuals record it up to 1 meter. Tiny plants can look somewhat different from the larger, more robust bushy ones. In all three centres, *Crepis tectorum* was commonly growing on roadsides and in waste places on dry sandy substrate. Sometimes its winter-annual nature was evident from ground-hugging leaf rosettes which overwinter and send up leafy, flower-producing stems the next year. These were probably the larger plants we observed, the smaller ones having germinated in spring from seeds of the previous year. This mixture of annual plants and winter annual plants ensures that a good crop of seed will be produced regardless of unusual weather conditions in the fall and spring which might seriously affect one of the growth forms.

In the most recent Canadian overview paper (Najda et al, 1982), this species is reported from all the provinces and territories in Canada except Newfoundland and Labrador. On the prairies of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba it is considered a "nuisance weed" of forage and cereal crops, but on the positive side, it is also listed as a nectar plant for honeybees. The spread of this species into Labrador must have been recent otherwise observers such as Gillett (1963), Hustich (1972), and others would surely have reported it. Of course, earlier in the season when not in bloom it could easily be overlooked. Wein et al (1992) also record its recent spread into northern parts of western Canada.

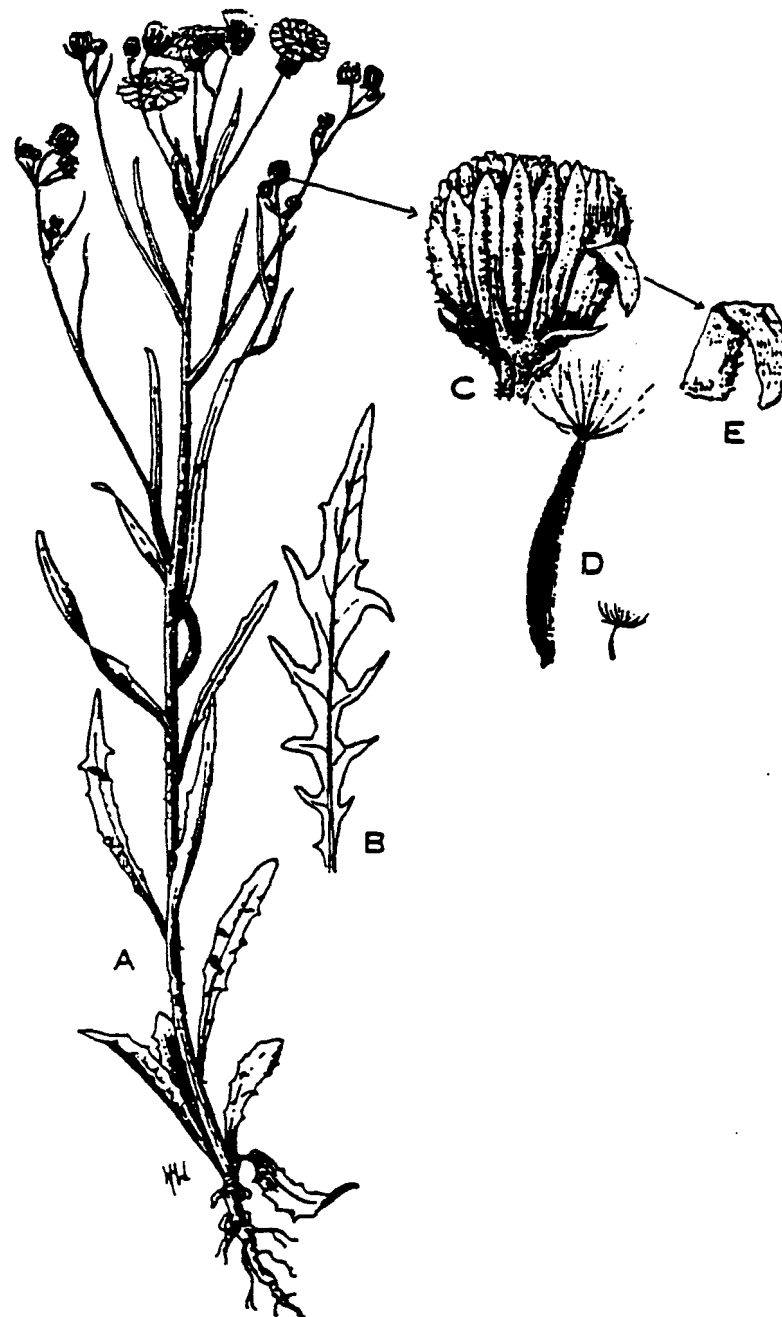
On August 30, 1998, a single plant was collected from a hydroseeded roadside embankment in Pasadena, no doubt having been introduced in the seed mixture used. Considerable hydroseeding has occurred in the Humber Valley in the last few years associated with new highway construction and this will continue for several more years. It will be interesting to see if this species will now also become an established member of the insular Newfoundland flora as it has in Labrador.

The illustrations used are from Frankton and Mulligan (1987) reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 1999. Voucher specimens are deposited in the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Herbarium (SWGCH).

#### Literature Cited

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- Mann, H. and M. Collins. 1999. Botanical observations along the Trans-Labrador Highway in early August, 1998. The Osprey 30: (in press).
- Najda, H.G., A.L. Darwent, and G. Hamilton. 1982. The biology of Canadian weeds. 54. *Crepis tectorum* L. Canadian Journal of Plant Science 62: 473-481.
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**Figure 1:**  
**Narrow-leaved hawk's-beard (*Crepis tectorum* L): A, plant. B, lower leaf. C, flowering head showing bracts (phyllaries). D, seed. E, bract of head turned back to show fine hairs on inner surface.**  
Illustrations from Frankton and Mulligan (1987) are used with permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada.

## From the Plant Press

Glenda Quinn (editor)

Another season and lots to look forward! Plans for our annual summer field trip "abroad" this summer have been made and we are off to Bay D'Espoir area from July 16-22. Bookings have been made, but anyone else may make their own arrangements. Phone Howard Clase (753-6415) for details.

Howard Clase, the Wildflower Society's president, has created a web page and the address is—  
<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/hclase/wf/index.html>—be sure to check it out.

I recently had e-mail from Robin Day and he informs me that he had Vol. 1 of Atlas of Labrador Plants reprinted in Korea (softcover) at a much reduced price of \$20 Canadian money order, includes postage. If you are interested contact Robin at:

Robin Day  
 Honam University  
 English Dept.  
 59-1 Seobong Dong Kwangju  
 South Korea  
 506-714  
 e-mail: [robin@honam.honam.ac.kr](mailto:robin@honam.honam.ac.kr)

How's your PlantWatch observations coming along? (Sarracenia Vol. 8 # 1). The spring of 1999 has certainly been an exceptionally warm one and plants are in bloom very early. Isn't the Rhodora's splash of magenta along the highway a welcome sight? Remember to send your recordings to:

Madonna Bishop  
 MUN Botanical Garden,  
 St. John's NF, A1C 5S7  
 Fax: 709-737-8596  
 e-mail: [mbishop@morgan.ucs.mun.ca](mailto:mbishop@morgan.ucs.mun.ca)

After reading Howard's account of the group's visit to Burin, I remembered I had recorded in my journal after a visit there last summer, my account of Lady's Mantle. Here's the except- "We stayed at the Sound of The Sea Bed 'n Breakfast in Burin. Beautifully decorated, it reflected the owner's intelligence and "sense of place". If only ( those famous two words) we knew it was going to rain all day we would have walked the James Cook trail upon our arrival on Saturday. I also found out about another trail too late— the Man-o-War trail. In such a short space of time I only found two plants of interest- Galium sp. and a hawthorn tree in bloom. Throughout the community of Burin, Lady's Mantle (Alchemilla sp., probably A. monticola as Grey 's Manual lists it for se. Nfld. and calls it a bad weed) has taken a strong foothold and it's limey colour makes a striking colour against the native vegetation. Eve, the proprietier of the B'n B, knew of the woman who first introduced it years ago and gave me direction to Paul's Hill where it started but we didn't find the place. The local people call it Golden Glow. The plant is listed in many herbals and it is prized for its astringent properties. It is used to stop bleeding, to heal wounds and bruises. The dried herb is used for diarrhea and dysentery and for excessive menstruation as well as general bleeding. The older part of Burin reminds me of Burgeo and it's a confusing place to get around. Mounds of volcanic rock and lumps of islands mell together to make a wonderful vista."

Our next schedule meeting is October 6, 1999 at 8 o'clock at the Field House. Our guest speaker will be Brian Bursey who has published Discovering Newfoundland, Exploring Labrador, Exploring Newfoundland, as well as an address book and a guest book. These books are full of beautiful pictures of our province. He tells us that he has pictures of plants that didn't quite make the grade for publishing but would make for an interesting slide presentation. He suggested that we could help him identify some of the flowers. In the fall members will be contacted by phone as a reminder.

Please remember to renew your membership due in September. Form provided in this issue or see Carmel Conway, our treasurer (722-0121)

## RARE NEWFOUNDLAND WILDFLOWERS 15

In order to develop a better understanding of the distribution of our rare plants, especially those of the West Coast, a series of these sheets will be made available to interested naturalists. Each sheet will deal with a single species known only from a few localities on the Island. Please report any sightings of rare plants to Henry Mann, Biology Department, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, A2H 6P9, or call 637-6245 (work) or 686-2340 (home). Records will be kept in the S.W.G. College Herbarium

**Plant Name:** Common - False Solomon's - seal, Solomon's - plume, wild spikenard

Scientific - Smilacina racemosa (L.) Desf.  
(= Maianthemum racemosum (L.) Link)

### Characteristics:

A perennial herb about 30 to 90 cm tall with slightly zig-zag stems which lean or arch to one side. Leaves are attached alternately only on two sides of the stem producing a flattened appearance to the plant. A panicle cluster of many tiny flowers terminates the stem. Each flower is 3 to 5 mm across and has 3 sepals, 3 petals and 6 conspicuous stamens, all creamy-white in color. Fruits are brown speckled berries eventually turning red. This species may sometimes be confused with related Smilacina stellata (Starry False Solomon's - seal) which has larger flowers, 8-10 mm across, arranged in a raceme.

### Habitat:

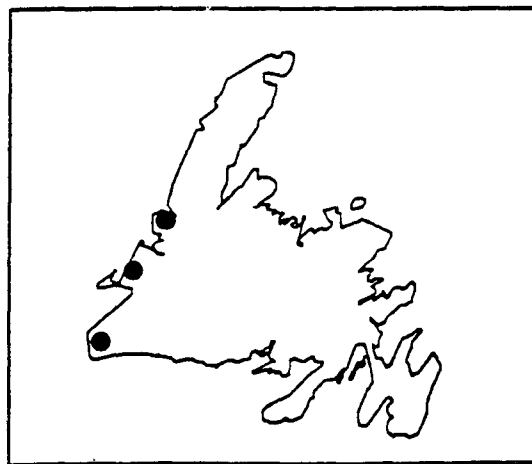
Rich deciduous woods in sheltered locations, valleys, flood plains, alder thickets.

### Flowering Season:

June - July throughout its northern range. Plants seen in the Codroy Valley July 21, 1997 exhibited small speckled immature green fruits.

### Known Distribution:

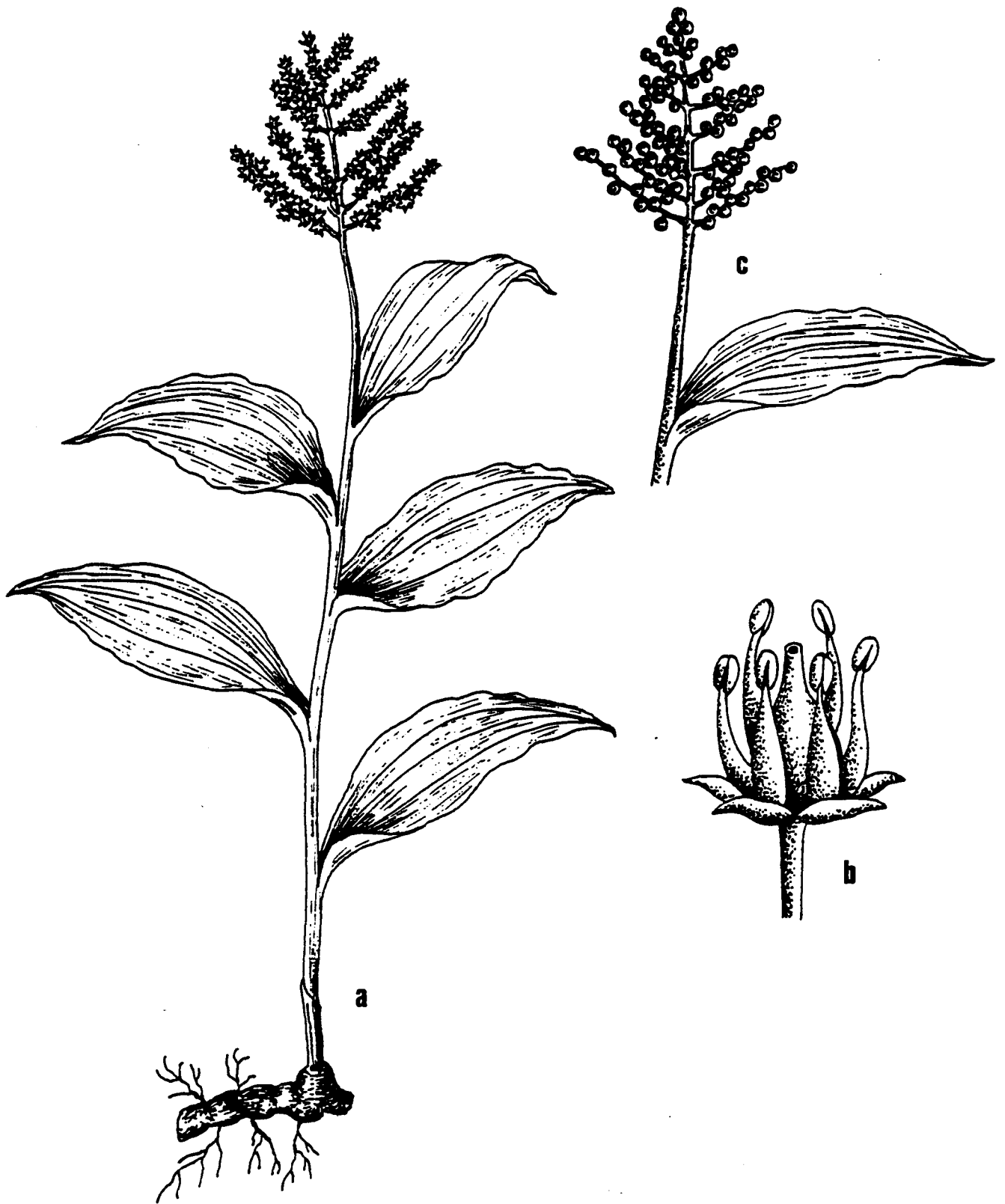
Only known from a few scattered locations on the west coast, Bonne Bay and south. Good potential for the discovery of new populations probably exists for this species within its present range.



(Distribution Map modified from Bouchard et al 1991)

**Diagrams:** See reverse side of page.

Also illustrated in Peterson and McKenny (pp. 66 - 67) and in Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (pp. 346 - 347).



**False Solomon's-seal (*Smilacina racemosa* (L.) (Desf.)**  
a. plant, b. individual flower, c. fruit cluster

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**Plant Name:** Common - Two-eyed Berry, Partridgeberry\*

Scientific - Mitchella repens L.

### Characteristics:

A small trailing evergreen shrub of only a few decimeters and easily overlooked. Leaves are opposite on the stem with rounded tips and rounded blade bases, sometimes slightly heart-shaped, with pale veins and occasionally whitish lines. Flowers are white petalled (or pinkish) with hairy upper surfaces, usually having 4 petal lobes, and flowers occur in pairs with their ovary bases joined. The united ovaries develop into a reddish "two-eyed" berry which may persist all winter.

### Habitat:

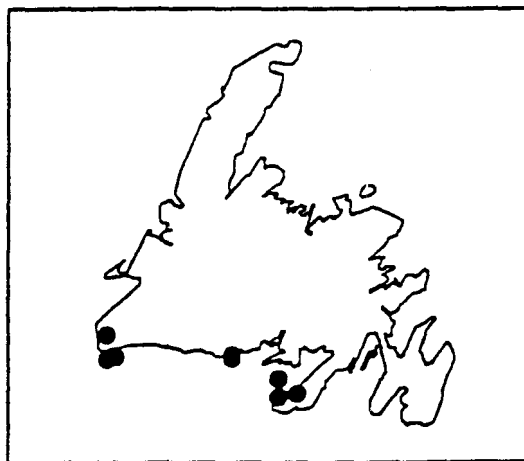
Known only from dry shrubby peatlands, (dry heath scrub, dwarf spruce thickets, in Bouchard et al, 1991)

### Flowering Season:

June - July. Seen in bloom in the Codroy Valley on July 21, 1997.

### Known Distribution:

Reported only from the Codroy Valley on the west coast and along the south coast to the Burin Peninsula. Also recorded for St. Pierre-Miquelon.

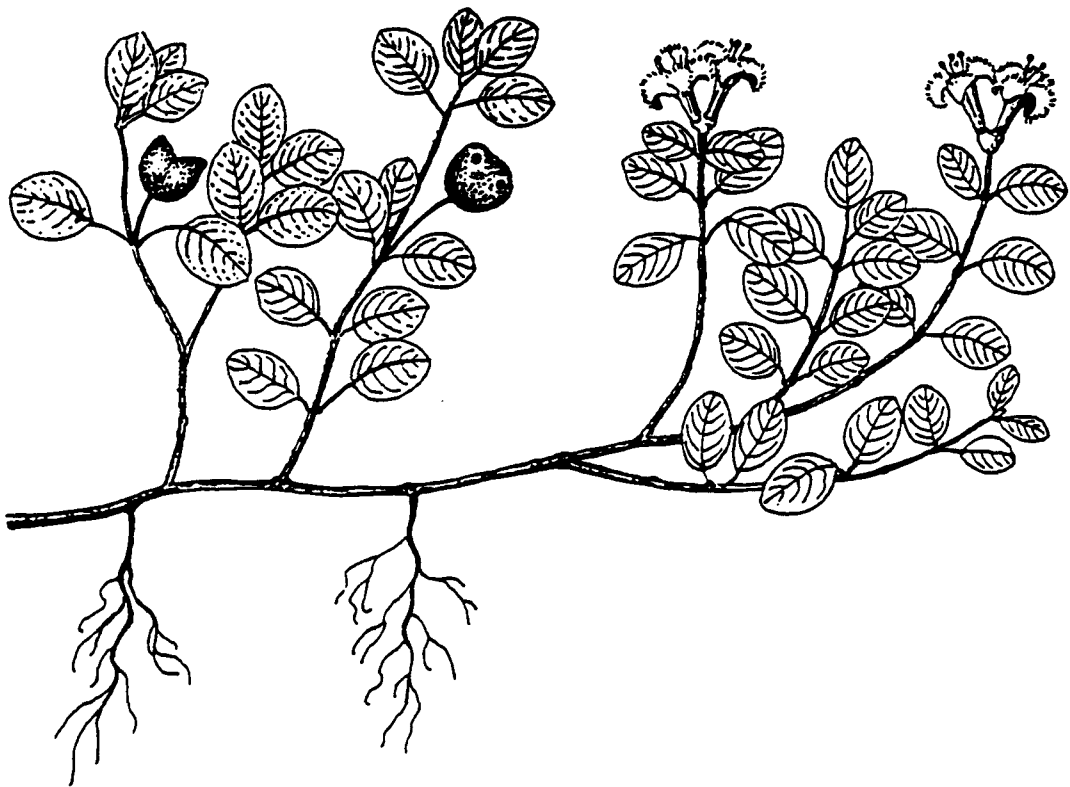


(Distribution Map after Bouchard et al 1991)

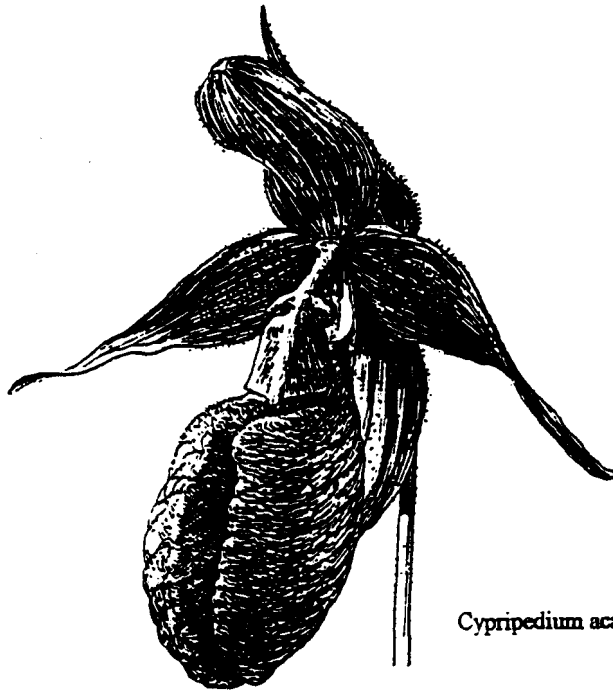
### Diagrams: See reverse side of page.

Also illustrated in Peterson and McKenny p. 41 and p. 237, and in Newcomb's Wildflower Guide, p. 157.

\*In Newfoundland, the common name "Partridgeberry" is applied to a small edible member of the blueberry family, Vaccinium vitis-idaea L. (Mountain Cranberry), not to this species. However, the name Partridgeberry is often used elsewhere in North America for the Two-eyed Berry.



Two-eyed Berry (Mitchella repens L.)



*Cypripedium acaule*

Please find enclosed \$10.00 for my membership fee for September 1999 - August 2000.

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Address .....

.....

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Mail to:

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