

NOTES ON SOME PLANTS THAT ARE RARE
IN ILLINOIS

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These notes are offered in the hope they may stimulate research and may result in the extension of the ranges of these species. As yet the flora of Illinois is very imperfectly known and with the growth of cities and towns many of the original habitats have vanished or are disappearing. The known occurrence of the following species is evidenced by specimens in the herbaria of the University of Illinois at Urbana, The State Museum at Springfield, or the Chicago Natural History Museum (Field Museum) at Chicago.

The Canada yew, *Taxus canadensis* Marsh., is limited to the northwestern part of the state where it occurs on the high banks of the Rock River in Winnebago County; on limestone cliffs at Warren and Apple River Canyon State Park in Jo Daviess County; on limestone rocks along Carroll Creek, near Mount Carroll, Carroll County; on limestone cliffs at White Pines Forest State Park, Ogle County, and on a hillside over limestone rocks along Franklin Creek, near Franklin Grove, Lee County. There are also a few individuals on the walls of the canyons of Starved Rock and Mathison State Parks, La Salle County and a small stand persists on the rocky banks of Rock Creek, Kankakee County.

The northern white cedar, *Thuja occidentalis* L., is a tree which has a very scattered distribution in Illinois, being limited to a very few individual trees with sparse repro-

duction and growing in widely separated stands. A few occur along the high bluffs of the shores of Lake Michigan in Lake County and there is a small stand near the city of Elgin in Kane County. In La Salle County it is to be found on the rocky bluffs of the shores of the Illinois River and on the sides of the canyon slopes of Starved Rock State Park.

Although the mountain ash, *Sorbus americana* Marsh., is used for ornamental planting, it is very rare as a native forest tree. Waite found it near Oregon, Ogle County, in 1888, but there seems to have been no other record for fifty years until it was rediscovered by G. N. Jones and the writer near Oregon in 1944. There they found a fair sized tree and three saplings.

The little bunch-berry, *Cornus canadensis* L. seems to have entirely disappeared from Chicago and Cook County where it was collected between 1880 and 1900, and at Oregon, Ogle County, where it was found in 1888. The only collections which seem to have been recorded during the present century are those of E. J. Hill, 1905, in the bog at Wauconda, Lake County, and of D. T. Ries, in 1942, on one of the canyon walls in Starved Rock State Park. It may be looked for and probably found in some of the bogs of Lake and McHenry Counties.

The round-leaved dogwood or ciliate dogwood *Cornus rugosa* Lam. (*C. circinata*) is a northern species that occurs scattered through Lake

County and has been collected in Lee County. Other collections seem to be absent from all herbaria but it should be sought (and probably found) between Lake and Lee Counties.

Many of the Ericaceae are absent or rare in Illinois. The large-leaved shin leaf, *Pyrola elliptica* Nutt. seems to have disappeared, although several collections were made in Cook, Lake, and Winnebago Counties about 1880. The round-leaved wintergreen, *Pyrola rotundifolia* var. *americana* (Sweet) Fern. has recently been collected in Lee County in moist woods along Franklin Creek.

There seems to be a single collection each of *Kalmia glauca* L., the pale laurel, and of *Andromeda polifolia* L. There are no records of their occurrence during the past 40 years.

There seems to be only a single record of the pinesap, *Monotropa hypopitys* L., a close relative of the little Indian pipe. It was collected in Elk Grove, Des Plaines, Cook County, in 1943 by Gordon Pearsall.

The aromatic wintergreen, *Gaultheria procumbens* L., has been reported only from Cook County where it seems now limited to a very small stand near Elk Grove, Des Plaines, Cook County.

The Canada blueberry, *Vaccinium canadense* Kalm. was formerly found by Babcock and by Hill in Cook County (1882, 1887) but it has doubtless long since disappeared. It now seems to be limited to Starved Rock State Park, La Salle County, and Castle Rock, Ogle County, where it occurs on St. Peters sandstone.

Two related species, the high blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum* L. and the large cranberry, *Vaccinium macrocarpon* Ait. are limited to bogs. Very few collections of them seem to have been made at any time. The former has been collected from a bog near Volo, Lake County and the latter from a bog near Lake Villa, Lake County. They both probably occur in other bogs in Lake and McHenry Counties.