

NOVITATES OCCIDENTALES.—IX.

By EDWARD L. GREENE.

Ranunculus hesperoxys. Herbage deep green, glabrate, only the young and growing parts villous-canescens: stem erect, $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, freely branching and many-flowered: leaves nearly all in a radical tuft, petiolate, of firm texture and rounded outline, deeply parted and subdivided into many somewhat lanceolate acute segments: petals round-obovate, usually 5 only: achenes large, flat, with short triangular-subulate hooked beak.

This is the plant which, in the *Flora Franciscana* and in the *Manual*, I called *R. canus*, for the reason that it seemed to come nearer the description of that species than any other plant known to occur in the region whence Mr. Bentham had his type. But having now seen that type, I am prepared to assert that *R. canus* has not yet been rediscovered. Nothing at all resembling Hartweg's plant is known to Californian botanists of the present time.

Ranunculus Harveyi. *R. abortivus*, var. *Harveyi*, Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. xxi. 372. The mention of the large showy flowers of this plant, as constituting the only difference between it and *R. abortivus*, is a very imperfect and misleading account to give to it. The achenes are much larger, and not half as numerous as in *R. abortivus*; moreover they form an exactly globose head, whereas those of *R. abortivus* proper form an ovoid one. But the vegetative characters of *R. Harveyi* are perhaps more than equally pronounced. As to stem and foliage it is slender and of delicate texture, while its roots are thick and fleshy to a degree almost approaching the tuberous. The roots of *R. abortivus* are merely coarse-fibrous.

Delphinium Geyeri. Root woody-fibrous: stem stoutish, 10 to 20 inches high: leaves mostly near the base of the stem and forming a considerable tuft, but in taller specimens

many cauline also, these diminishing upwards; the whole plant, especially the calyx, pedicels, and upper part of stem, canescently tomentulose: leaves slightly fleshy, cut into many linear segments, each of these tipped with a white callosity: flowers rather large, very deep azure, in a narrow simple and strict raceme; spur stoutish, horizontal or ascending, curving downwards from near the tip.

Common plant of the very high plains toward the headwaters of the Platte River in Wyoming and northern Colorado. First collected by Nuttall, whose specimen (Herb. Brit. Mus.) is ticketed "*D. bicolor*?" collected in Rocky Mts. by myself," though it is far enough from being his *D. bicolor*. It is also Geyer's n. 163 of "Slopes of undulating plains between the Kansas and Platte rivers, with *Ænothera serrulata*." It is one of several easily distinguishable plants, from widely sundered, and very different climatic regions, which Dr. Gray referred to *D. azureum*.

Phacelia leptostachya. Annual, stout, widely branching from the base and decumbent, the branches often 2 feet long or more, sparsely pilose-hispid with spreading brownish hairs, and slightly glandular-viscidulous: leaves ample, the lowest tripinnately dissected: spike-like racemes neither clustered terminally nor in pairs, but usually solitary and placed at intervals up and down the whole plant, in fruit commonly 6 inches long or more: calyx hispid, and with a shorter, denser, hirsute pubescence beneath; sepals spatulate, one of them conspicuously longer, and twice as wide at the tip as the others: corolla small, broadly funnelform with short rotate limb, little surpassing the calyx, and of a dingy greenish white: stamens conspicuously exserted, seeds 4, light brown, rugose-muricate.

A number of years ago, knowing this plant well, and not finding it recognized by any botanical author, I sent it to Asa Gray as a new species. Up to that time he had himself overlooked altogether Bentham's *P. distans*, and wrote me at once that this was the long forgotten species of Bentham. On this authority I described this plant in my *Manual* as

P. distans, Benth. But my counsellor had been misled. It is not that species, as an examination of Bentham's specimens has shown me; nor is it even what Gray himself sent out as representing *P. distans* after he had come to recognize that species. True *P. distans* is one of the commonest and most widely dispersed of Californian Phacelias. Nuttall collected it at San Diego, and had it named as new in his herbarium, *i. e.* "*P. floribunda*." The bulk of the specimens extant in herbaria will probably be found bearing the name *P. tanacetifolia*, with which much less common species it has been confused; though I had remarked its manifest peculiarities long ago. Its stem is more densely, and quite retrorsely hispid. Its spikes are short, and collected at and near the ends of the many branches in pairs or several together. Its corolla is very broad and open, and of a lavender color. Its calyx is less unequal than that of *P. leptostachya*. The new species is abundant in sandy soil, under oak trees, and even along the less frequented and newer streets of Alameda, California; a station that yields a goodly number of well marked and very local species in other genera. A marked variety of it, or possibly a distinct species, with larger and almost white corollas, the whole plant smaller, and the spikes less scattered, is common on sandy or rocky hills at San Francisco, and in Marin and Sonoma counties.

Phacelia umbrosa. Allied to the preceding, but only sparingly hispidulous and not viscid or glandular, very slender, amply leafy throughout: foliage thin, the segments not deeply cut, scarcely more than crenate-toothed: sepals as unequal, but thinner, ampler and longer: corolla with much longer and narrower tube and smaller limb, bluish-lilac, or pale violet: stamens not exserted.

Northern part of the peninsula of Lower California, C. R. Orcutt, 1885.

Amsinckia microcarpa. Erect, a foot high or more, rather slender, sparingly hispidulous: cauline leaves broadly lanceolate: racemes not bracted, short and rather dense:

calyx very small, the sepals not accrescent, only a line long at maturity, whitish-villous below, with a few coarse short rufous hairs at tip: corolla quite large, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, with rather ample spreading limb: nutlets only $\frac{3}{4}$ line long, ovate, somewhat incurved, very sharply rugose transversely, with no dorsal ridge.

Plant collected long ago by Dr. Coulter, probably in the southern part of California, but possibly in Mexico. Calyx and nutlets very characteristic.

Amsinckia barbata. Stout and coarse, erect or decumbent, the branches loosely floriferous throughout, all except the uppermost pedicels subtended each by a broad ovate-lanceolate amplexicaul foliaceous bract: sepals 4 or 5 lines long, nearly linear, without rufous or fulvous pubescence, but densely white-hirsute along the margins, sparsely hispid with whitish bristles on the back: corolla small: nutlets ovate-acuminate, closely muricate-tuberculate, without transverse rugosities, but with an elevated and toothed dorsal ridge.

Cameron Lake, Vancouver Island, 15 July, 1887, John Macoun. Type specimen in the herbarium of the British Museum. Species somewhat related to *A. tessellata*, but remarkable for its great leafiness throughout; the pubescence of the calyx most peculiar; the rather soft white beard of the margins of the sepals concealing the fruit.

CORRECTIONS IN NOMENCLATURE.—V.

By EDWARD L. GREENE.

Ranunculus Drummondii. *R. Hookeri*, Regel, Pl. Radd i. 47 (1861); A. Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. xxiii. 369, not of Schlechtendal, Linnæa, ix. 610 (1835). The central Mexican plant so long ago named *R. Hookeri*, and fully described by Schlechtendal, is no very near relative of *R. repens*, but a thoroughly valid species; this notwithstanding that some