Pittonia :a series of papers relating to botany and botanists

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has been published. It is very distinct from its allies in the form of the inflorescence, the character of the calyx, and the size of its flowers and fruits.

New or Noteworthy Species.

XII.

Lotus (Syrmatium) Biolettii. Perennial, diffuse, the slender and somewhat wiry nearly prostrate branches a foot or two in length and almost forming a mat: herbage cinereously or canescently pubescent with short and closely appressed hairs: leaflets usually 4, cuneate-obovate, obtuse, 2 to 4 lines long: umbels on slender peduncles little exceeding the leaves, unifoliolate-bracted, 6 to 10-flowered: calyx less than a line long, narrowly funnelform, the triangular pointless erect teeth scarcely a third as long: corolla 2 lines long, deep yellow, turning dark red: pod strongly arcuate, slender-beaked, the rather broad body 1 or 2-seeded.

On dry ridges above Mill Valley, Marin Co., California, collected by Mr. Bioletti.

The description of *Trifolium fucatum* given in the Flora Franciscana applies to no species very closely, but covers loosely an aggregate of things which I now feel able to separate and to characterize. I had feared at first that they were confluent varieties, but am now convinced that they are thoroughly distinct. The essential characters of the true *fucatum* must first be given.

Trifolium fucatum, Lindl. Bot. Reg. xxii. t. 1883 (1836): *T. physopetalum*, Fisch. & Mey., Ind. Sem. Petr. iii. 47 (in the same year, but presumably later). Branches stout and somewhat fistulous, often a foot long: leaflets an inch long,

letti. This seems to be no more than a variety of *F. recurva;* but its habitat is far to the southward of the recorded range of the species.

PLAGIOBOTHRYS CALIFORNICUS. *P. rufescens*, Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. xx. 282, not of Fisch. & Mey. Seldom less than 1 foot, often 2, not rarely 2½ ft. high, with an erect main stem and several long decumbent trailing branches, all from a tuft of radical spatulate-oblanceolate leaves: spikes a foot or two in length, very lax (the fruiting calyces an inch apart); calyx cleft almost to the base, the segments persistent: nutlets 1½ lines long, nearly a line broad in the middle, abruptly stout-beaked, the nearly orbicular body sharply carinate and laterally crested, with or without sharp transverse rugosities and intervening muriculations.

Very common in the interior of California, from Los Angeles to the borders of Oregon, on the open plains, and among the lower foothills; abundant about Antioch, Vacaville, etc.; apparently first collected by Mr. Howell, near the Oregon line, many years ago. It was the discovery of this species which led to the restoration of the two genera *Plagiobothrys* and *Cryptanthe*, which American authority had unwarrantably merged in *Eritrichium;* and Dr. Gray, without knowledge of the mature fruit of the Chilian plant, assumed this to be identical with the *P. rufescens* of Fischer & Meyer. He admitted, however, at the place I have cited, that the South American plant was not credited with that sharp keel of the nutlet which is so conspicuous in ours. My mature specimens of the plant of South America show that this keel is wanting in the true *P. rufescens.* And in that species the nutlet is much smaller (as is, indeed, the whole plant), and favose-reticulate rather than transversely rugose with parallel ridges. With fair specimens in hand it is impossible that a botanist should confound the two species.

ALLOCARYA STRICTA. Slender, strictly erect and somewhat succulent, simple or with several scarcely divergent spicate

branches above, barely 5 or 6 inches high, glabrous, or nearly so, all except the floral leaves opposite: spikes dense, 1 or 2 inches long: flowers very small, white, with yellow centre: calyx segments closed over the immature fruit: nutlets light gray and, under a lens, vitreous-shining, long-ovate, about $\frac{1}{3}$ line long, rough with numerous close transverse rugosities; insertion supra-basal, the scar linear with dilated base and about one-third the length of the nutlet.

Abundant in boggy places about the warm sulphur springs at Calistoga, California; collected by the writer, April 20, 1892. Species as definitely marked in character as it is peculiar in aspect. Perhaps quite local.

CRYPTANTHE KELSEYANA. Annual, stoutish, rather low, the racemose branches widely spreading; the whole plant very hispid: racemes rather dense, biserial: calyx about 3 lines long, very hispid: nutlets 4, of which three are gray, narrowly ovate-acuminate, a line long, and sparsely tuberculate, the fourth much smaller, (abortive?) reddish-brown, smooth, and persistent; scar of the subulate above a small rounded merely supra-basal arcola.

Collected by the author, at Elliston, Montana, 6 Aug., 1889, and dedicated to his esteemed friend, Rev. F. D. Kelesey, the resident botanist of that region. The species is nearest *C. Pattersonii*, which has four equal and consimilar smooth nutlets.

CRYPTANTHE BARTOLOMÆI. Aspect, pubescence and inflorescence of *C. Utahensis*, but the minute ($\frac{1}{2}$ line long) ovate-lanceolate nutlets (4 and consimilar) perfectly smooth and lucid, and without margin; the ventral groove shortly bifurcate at the base, but closed throughout.

Bay of San Bartolomé, Lower California, Lieut. Pond, 1889. A connecting link between the *oxygona* and *leiocarpa* groups in the genus.

COLLINSIA ARVENSIS. Erect, simple or with several nearly erect branches from the base, 10 to 18 inches high, glabrous

except the very sparsely setulose-hairy leaf-margins: lowest leaves oval or oblong, ½ inch long, on petioles of equal length, coarsely toothed or somewhat lobed; cauline from lanceolate to linear, sessile, revolute: flowers loosely racemose (1, 2 or rarely 3 at each upper node), deep violet-purple, ¾ inch long: calyx-teeth lanceolate-subulate, twice the length of the tube; corolla with compressed saccate tube as broad as long (¼ inch), the upper lip half the length of the lower, and paler; filaments very sparsely hirsute below.

Very common in grain-fields at Knight's Valley, Sonoma Co., Calif., and in adjacent Lake and Marin counties. One of the largest and most beautiful species of the genus, apparently confused, hitherto, with the small and insignificant *C. sparsiflora*, the pale flowers of which are seldom a third as large, the whole herbage finely puberulent, etc.

On Certain Californian Labiatæ.

The most natural of the so-called Natural Families of plants, such as the Umbelliferæ, Cruciferæ and Labiatæ, though richly abounding in good species, have relatively few natural genera. I have heard that some recent writer upon the Labiatæ has raised more or less seriously the question whether the whole family constitutes more than a single genus. And, while no systematic botanist would be disturbed by the suggestion, it can scarcely be doubted, that a great many of our so-called genera of Labiates, are unnatural, and based upon very feeble marks of distinction; such as, in less natural families, would scarcely establish subgeneric groups.

Firmly believing this to be true, I suppose it may be attributable to this, that our most voluminous authors (and therefore the most respected authorities), have usually been herbarium men, rather than botanical travelers and observers,