

New York State Museum

FREDERICK J. H. MERRILL, Director

CHARLES H. PECK, State Botanist

Bulletin 67

BOTANY 6

REPORT OF THE STATE BOTANIST 1902

BY

CHARLES H. PECK

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ALBANY

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

1903

University of the State of New York

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REPORT OF THE STATE BOTANIST 1902

To the Regents of the University of the State of New York

I have the honor of submitting to you the report of work done in the botanical department of the State Museum during the past year.

Specimens of plants for the herbarium have been collected in the counties of Albany, Columbia, Essex, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Oneida, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Suffolk, Washington and Westchester. Specimens have been received from correspondents that were collected in the counties of Albany, Cayuga, Delaware, Erie, Essex, Herkimer, Monroe, New York, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Saratoga, Schenectady, Seneca, Schoharie, St Lawrence, Suffolk, Tioga, Wayne and Westchester.

The specimens collected and contributed represent 289 species, of which 235 belong to the collections of the botanist, 54 to those of correspondents; 59 are new to the herbarium, 230 are now more fully and completely represented than before. Of the 59 species, 17 are considered new species and are herein described as such. Of these, 15 are among the collections of the botanist, two belong to those of correspondents. All of the new species are fungi. The number of species added to the flora of the State is 73, but 14 of these have previously been united with other species either as forms or varieties. They have recently been published as distinct species and are now included in the additions to our flora. A list of the species of which specimens have been added to the herbarium is marked A.

Names of species added to our flora, together with notes concerning their habitats, localities, time of collection of the specimens and descriptions of new species, are contained in a part of the report marked **C**.

The number of persons who have contributed specimens is 52. Their names and their respective contributions are recorded in a part of the report marked **B**. Some of these contributions consist of specimens of extralimital species and are not included in the enumeration just given. Some of the specimens were sent for identification; but, if for any reason their preservation seemed desirable and they were in sufficiently good condition, they have been preserved and credited to the sender as a contribution. The number of those who have sent specimens for identification is 90. The number of species identified for them is 1054. These are chiefly fungi.

Remarks and results of observations on previously reported species, new stations of rare plants, unusual habitats and descriptions of new varieties are given under **D**.

During summer and early autumn the weather was unusually wet and showery, a condition often supposed to be favorable to mushroom growth. Nevertheless, the result was by no means an abundant crop. Many species which in ordinarily moist seasons grow gregariously or are scattered through fields and woods in abundance were either wholly wanting or were few and far apart. Certain species of *Amanita*, *Lepiota*, *Lactarius* and *Russula*, which are usually common were noticeably scarce or not seen at all. The common mushroom crop was almost a complete failure. The prevailing low temperature combined with an excess of moisture probably prevented the development of the mycelium and caused the absence of many species. But opportunity was afforded for the trial of the edible qualities of several of our wild mushrooms. Of those tested, eight species have been found edible. Colored figures of natural size have been prepared to illustrate these, and descriptions have been written according to the plan followed in similar cases in previous reports. These descriptions constitute a part of the report marked **E**.

The investigation of our Crataegus flora, which was begun last year, has been continued. The close resemblance many of our

species of *Crataegus* have to each other and the need of a correct knowledge of all their distinguishing characters in order to identify the species satisfactorily, make it necessary to have specimens showing flowers, mature fruit, immature and mature foliage. Our species blossom in May and early in June, but do not ripen their fruit till late in August, during September and early in October. It is therefore necessary to make at least two collections of samples from each individual tree or shrub to be identified. One taken in flowering time will show the flowers and young leaves, the other taken in fruiting time should show the ripe fruit and mature leaves. It is desirable also to have samples of young and vigorous shoots with their mature leaves, which often differ somewhat from the leaves of ordinary shoots; also of twigs of the first and second year's growth and of the early growth of the season with stipules and thorns. Specimens of all the unrecognized species of *Crataegus* growing in the vicinity of Albany and in the Champlain valley from Fort Ann on the south to Westport on the north and in North Elba have been collected. The localities in the immediate vicinity of Albany have been visited several times; those in the Champlain valley, in North Elba and the country between it and Westport twice; once in May and early June and once in September. A large amount of material has been collected, duplicate specimens having in all cases been taken. By reason of the peculiar difficulties attending the identification of these plants, owing to the confusion of species and the omission in older descriptions of any record of characters now deemed important, it has seemed best to avail myself of the aid of Professor C. S. Sargent, the distinguished dendrologist and specialist in this branch of botany. Accordingly a set of these specimens has been sent to him for identification.

Mr F. E. Fenno, an active botanist of Tioga county, has from time to time contributed to the herbarium specimens of rare and interesting plants from his county. He has given much time to the collection and study of the plants of his region and has recently sent me a very full annotated list of the species known from his own observation to occur there. In all doubtful cases these have been identified by specialists. The *Illustrated Flora*

has chiefly been followed in the arrangement and nomenclature of the list, and the territory covered is described as the Susquehanna valley and adjacent hills of Tioga county. This territory includes the greater part of the southern half of the county. It is apparently rich in species, the list containing a remarkable number for such a limited region. It has therefore seemed to me desirable that this list should be published. It, with the *Flora of the Upper Susquehanna* by W. N. Clute, will give a very fair knowledge of what species of flowering plants and ferns occur in the southern central part of our State and will be an aid in determining the range of little known and rare species. It has therefore been added to this report as appendix F.

Respectfully submitted

CHARLES H. PECK

State Botanist

Albany, Dec. 3, 1902

