



6-30-1943

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## Recommended Citation

Barnes, Claude T. (1943) "The hawthorn, *Crataegus colorado*, a new record for Utah," *Great Basin Naturalist*: Vol. 4 : No. 1 , Article 4.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn/vol4/iss1/4>

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The Hawthorn, *Crataegus colorado*, a New Record for Utah

On September 9, 1941, Louise Atkinson and I discovered a hawthorn new to Utah's known flora, growing on the north side of Provo Canyon at an altitude of 5200 feet, at a point about one quarter mile up the main canyon from the entrance to Timpanogos drive. Miss Atkinson caught a glimpse of its scarlet berries as we drove towards it, and upon investigating we found it had thorns four inches long.

That afternoon we submitted the specimen to Prof. A. O. Garrett, but he like ourselves was puzzled; for the genus *Crataegus* is so highly critical one must have many comparative specimens for final determination. Accordingly the next day we sent the branch to the National Herbarium which forwarded it to the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard. It was there thought to be either a new species or one so close as to require both spring and fall specimens. Since that time we have forwarded many specimens, and we have just received word from Mr. Ernest J. Palmer that it has finally been designated as *Crataegus colorado* Ashe.

Mr. Palmer makes these observations.

"This plant is certainly very different from *Crataegus rivularis*, the only species of which we had specimens from your region. From characters shown by both the flowering and fruiting specimens, and particularly from the nutlets of the fruit, it seems to belong definitely in the section *Macracanthae*. This section is represented in the Rocky mountain region by *Crataegus occidentalis* Britton and by *C. colorado* Ashe, the types of which came from Colorado.

"In Rydberg's Flora of the Rocky Mountains and adjacent plains you will note that both *Crataegus occidentalis* and *C. colorado* are given as synonyms of *C. succulenta*. I scarcely feel that such a combination of things that typically appear so distinct is justified, and we have kept both of them separate in this herbarium. Your plant too looks rather distinct from either in its relatively smaller and narrower leaves and in its rather smaller flowers. But it seems to me that it comes too near to *C. colorado* to be considered a distinct species. The differences that it shows may be accounted for possibly as the result of varied ecological conditions. Many new species were recognized and described by Ashe, Sargent and others about the beginning of the century that were characterized by no better distinctions than can be found in this plant. But in a genus like *Crataegus* it is my feeling that it is advisable to be very cautious and that new species should be named only where the distinguishing characters are very clear and, generally, where a number of individuals are known for comparison. However, it is an interesting discovery and it extends the range of *Crataegus colorado* to Utah where species of the genus are very scarce, and only one *C. rivularis*—was definitely known before."

Since discovering the original tree Miss Atkinson and I have found more than twenty other similar trees in the same locality, all within a hundred yards distance. The original tree actually hangs over the very edge of the highway, and in the past decade probably half a million people have passed within ten feet of it.—Claude T. Barnes, 359 Tenth Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.