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COMMENTS ON TWO NAMES IN AN EARLY UTAH FLORA

James L. Reveal¹

ABSTRACT.— Two new varieties described by Durand in 1859 from the Great Salt Lake area of northern Utah are discussed. One, *Erysimum asperum* var. *purshii*, is the oldest available name for the western United States variant of the species, while the second name, *Acerates decumbens* var. *erecta*, is a synonym of *Asclepias asperula*. Neither name has been included in botanical reference works nor in monographic studies. One new combination, *Erysimum asperum* var. *amoenum*, is proposed for the orange-flowered phase of the species found in southern Colorado and Utah.

In 1859, Elias Durand of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia published an article entitled "A sketch of the botany of the basin of the Great Salt Lake of Utah," in which he summarized the flora based on collections made by John C. Frémont (1843 and 1845), Howard Stansbury (1849 and 1850), and Edwin O. Beckwith (1854), all associated with various expeditions sponsored by the United States government, and Mrs. Jane Carrington of Salt Lake City. Little is known about Carrington. Her collections were delivered to Durand by Colonel Thomas L. Kane, and Durand alludes to her as a "Mormon lady" in an unpublished catalogue of his plant collection; I have been unable to add more than the 1857 date when she obtained her plants (Reveal, 1972). Since she was the first woman botanist (or at least plant collector) in Utah, it is hoped that historians will discover more about this person.

While in Paris recently, I had an opportunity to review Carrington's collections deposited in the Durand Herbarium at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire de Phanérogamie. While time did not permit a full investigation of the 59 species attributed to her by Durand, two specimens representing new entities were studied.

Erysimum asperum (Nutt.) DC. var. *purshii* Durand, Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc. II, 11:159. 1859. Durand states: "The very same form as Pursh's specimen in herbarium of Phila. Acad. of Nat. Sci. Stems simple, several from the same root, smaller than the preceding [sic., alluding to var. *asperum*], scarcely 1 foot high, few-flowered; radical leaves entire, or nearly so; siliques 1½-2 inches long."

LECTOTYPE: UTAH: Salt Lake Co.: Near the Great Salt Lake, Salt Lake Valley, June 1857, *Carrington s.n.* Holotype, P!

The Pursh collection, cited above, is also in the Durand Herbarium, but without data. It seems wise to select the Carrington specimen as the lectotype although the description could equally apply to either collection.

Erysimum asperum is a widespread and highly variable species that is composed of several weakly defined varieties. The type of the

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species comes from the Great Plains and has more or less spreading fruits. The western United States material with yellow flowers and erect fruits should be called var. *purshii*. Hitchcock (1964) was unable to determine which name should be applied to this phase, being unaware of Durand's publication. In most western floras, this phase has been called *E. capitatum* (Dougl. ex Hook.) Greene, although Welsh et al. (1965) call this plant simply *E. asperum*.

Those specimens with orangish or reddish flowers from the southern Rocky Mountains and high mountains of Utah should be called *E. asperum* var. *amoenum* (Greene) Reveal, comb. & stat. nov., based on *Cheiranthus nivalis* var. *amoenus* Greene, Pittonia 3:137. 1896. Holmgren (1959) and Welsh et al. (1965) have called this phase *E. wheeleri* Rothr. Similar plants occur sporadically in the Pacific Northwest but appear to represent another kind as yet undescribed (Hitchcock, 1964), while those of the southern Coast Range of California are called *E. asperum* var. *stellatum* J. T. Howell.

Acerates decumbens (Nutt.) Dcne. in DC. var. *erecta* Durand, Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc. II, 11:174. 1859. Durand states: "Stem erect, 3 feet high. Leaves scattered, sometimes verticillate in threes, ovate-lanceolate, 4-5 inches long and 1 broad, shortly petiolate. Umbel terminal solitary, globose, 2½-3 inches in breadth; pedicels pubescent; calyx and corolla green, crown deep purple."

TYPE: UTAH: Salt Lake Co.: Salt Lake City, 1857, *Carrington s.n.* Holotype, P!

This variety is a synonym of *Asclepias asperula* (Dcne in DC.) Woodson var. *asperula*, a common species which occurs in the central United States and northern Mexico. Woodson did not account for this name in his monograph of *Asclepias* (Woodson, 1954).

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