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CICUTA BULBIFERA L. (UMBELLIFERAE) IN ALASKA

Stephen L. Talbot1, Sandra J. Looman1, and Stanley L. Welsh2

ABSTRACT—Cited are distribution records for Alaska of Cicuta bulbifera L. It was discovered growing in the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge in north central Alaska in 1984 and again in 1987. An earlier record is also known from near Fairbanks.

Populations of Cicuta bulbifera L. were discovered during aquatic plant inventories of Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge in north central Alaska at 64°50'N, 154°15'W and at 65°07'N, 153°08'W. An earlier record from Alaska, taken near Fairbanks, is acknowledged by Dr. David Murray (personal communication). The nearest previously reported location for this species is from the central Yukon Territory, Canada (A. E. Porsild and W. J. Cody, Vascular plants of the continental Northwest Territories, Canada, p. 476. 1980). It is a transcontinental species known also in western Canada from British Columbia and Alberta (H. J. Scoggan, Flora of Canada, part 4: 1162. 1969). W. J. Cody (Canadian Field-Nat. 74(2): 92. 1960) reported the northernmost site at 65°17'N in the central District of Mackenzie, which the Nowitna record approaches in latitude. The collection from Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge is a considerable extension of the known range.

The population in Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge (Talbot and Looman #022101B-6, 19 August) sampled in 1987 was growing on the shore of an alluvial lake along the Yukon River between Lange Island and Brant Island in the Melozitna (Al) Quadrangle at an elevation of 46 m. It occurred in a Carex-lasiocarpa Ehrh.—Potentilla palustris L. floating shore mire. Companion species in the community included Equisetum fluviatile L., Cicuta mackenzieana Raup, Menyanthes trifoliata L., Lycopus uniflorus Michx., Chamaedaphne calyculata (L.) Moench, Andromeda polifolia L., Drosera rotundifolia L., Pedicularis parviflora Smith ex Rees, Eriophorum polystachion L., Sphagnum spp., and Drepanocladus spp. Contiguous plant communities were an aquatic forb association dominated by Potamogeton robbinsii Oakes and P. natans L., and a raised ombrophilous peatland dominated by Picea mariana (Mill.) Britt., Sterns & Pogg and Ledum decumbens (Ait.) Lodd. ex Steud. The 1984 collection (Talbot #C23-12, August) is from a graminoid bog.

Voucher specimens are deposited at herbaria of Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; University of Alaska, Fairbanks; and the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge, Galena, Alaska.

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