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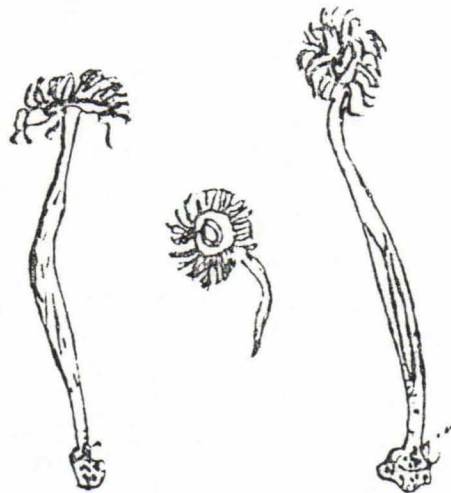
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UNCOMMON PLANTS FOUND ON THE SHOSHONE
DISTRICT OF THE BLM IN 1983

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Montagnea aenarius

UNCOMMON PLANTS FOUND ON THE SHOSHONE
DISTRICT OF THE BLM IN 1983

By Roger Rosentreter
Boise District Botanist

During the 1983 field season I inventoried a number of isolated BLM land tracts scheduled for government land sales to determine the status of rare plants on these sites. As a result of my survey several uncommon plant species were located on or enroute to these tracts. These plants include one mushroom, *Montagnea aenarius*; one grass, *Muhlenbergia racemosa*; and four vacular plants, *Chroizanthe watsonii*, *Draba douglasii*, *Eriogonum thymoides*, and *Ranunculus andersonii*.

My time and opportunity for inventory was limited to four field days, nevertheless, six uncommon species were located. I feel that a more extensive and complete inventory of the Shoshone District would no doubt result in additional range extensions and new locations for some of Idaho's rare and uncommon flora.

This information would direct future BLM management activites so as to avoid conflicts with rare plants. Plus an inventory would show the real status of many plants now thought to be rare. For example every area I examined on the Shoshone District had thyme-leaved buckwheat occurring. This plant is currently on the state's Watch List. Several formal collections over a wide geographic area could result in a re-evaluation of its status and perhaps a de-listing of the species. BLM management concern could then be focused on the truely rare plant species.

An extensive inventory of the Shoshone District would benefit other BLM districts by expanding the range and ecological data for species which occur over several districts.

UNCOMMON PLANTS FOUND ON THE SHOSHONE

BLM DISTRICT IN 1983 SPECIES LIST

1. *Chorianthe watsonii*
2. *Draba douglasii*
3. *Eriogonum thymoides*
4. *Ranunculus andersonii*
5. *Montagnea aenarius*
6. *Muhlenbergia racemosa*

1. Chorizanthe watsonii (Watson's Spine-Flower)
11. Family: Polygonaceae
111. Status: Uncommon
- 1V. Locations: Known to occur in central Washington, eastern Oregon,
Utah, Arizona and central Idaho.
Blaine County, Idaho
T1N,R12E, Sec. 11
- V. Soil Type: shallow gravel or pebbles
- VI. Habitat and Ecology: Occurs on dry, sagebrush hills. *C. watsonii*
is a small annual with dichotomously branched stems and mostly
opposite stem leaves. It grows at mid-elevations in pebbles over
bedrock. Being an annual it may only be found in wet years.
- VII. Remarks:
- VIII. Hazards: Off road vehicles , mining activities and gravel pits.
- IX. Management Recommendations: Protect from all hazards. Note locations
and search for more sites.

I. Draba douglasii var. douglasii (Douglas) aba)

II. Family: Cruciferae

III. Status: Uncommon

IV. Known Locations:

Idaho: Owyhee County:

- a. T. 3 S., R. 6 W., Sec. 14 SW
- b. T. 3 S., R. 6 W., Sec. 12 & 13
- c. T. 9 S., R. 4 W., Sec. 5
- d. T. 9 S., R. 5 W., Sec. 21 SE
- e. T. 14 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 36 SW SW 1/4
- f. Upper Succer Creek
- g. Deep Creek Area - T. 12 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 22
- h. Noon Creek Summit

Camas County: T. 1 N., R. 12 E., Sec. 30 SE 1/4

Oregon: Malheur County: -----

Harney County: -----

Nevada: Elko County: -----

V. Soil Type: Rocky, gravelly soil, or water-laden ash soil.

VI. Habitat and Ecology: In sagebrush country; in soil locations too shallow for sagebrush. Draba douglasii likes coarse textured soils.

VII. Remarks: A perennial that grows in a harsh environment.

VIII. Hazards: Off-road vehicles.

IX. Management Recommendations: It is fairly widely distributed and although not common, it is found in various soil types. Also the range and frequency may be wider than indicated by collections because of the early flowering time, the small size and superficial resemblance to other common species. Presently it is not in need of protection.

- I. Eriogonum thymoides (thyme-leaved Eriogonum)
- II. Family: Polygonaceae
- III. Status: On Idaho's State Watch list.
- IV. Known Locations:
- Idaho: Blaine County: several sites
- Camas County:
- a. 14 miles SE Fairfield
- b. T. 1 N., R. 21 E., Sec. 32 SW 1/4 of NW 1/4
- c. T. 1 N., R. 21 E., Sec. 35 - along Road Canyon Road
- Elmore County: 1 site
- Washington County:
- a. T. 12 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 29 & 30
- b. T. 13 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 16 & 30
- Adams County: 1 site
- Washington: Several sites
- Oregon: Several sites
- V. Soil Type: Very shallow, rocky basalt.
- VI. Habitat and Ecology: *E. thymoides* occurs in very shallow, rocky basaltic soils in sagebrush/grassland areas. Its revolute leaves and perennial nature are well adapted to a shallow soil in the dry desert.
- VII. Remarks: *E. thymoides* is common in the Bennett Hills area and has a wide distribution from there to Chelan County, Washington. It is rare in the Washington County area though. Also, more than half the herbarium collections known were collected before 1940. However, sites when it has been observed with cows had no apparent browsing by those cows. The individual plants often appear to be fairly old

individuals. A study of their stand age structure would be of interest.

VIII. Hazards: Range "improvement" programs, collecting by "bonsai" and rock gardeners. Locally jeopardized by collectors especially sites near highways. Sites are also inviting to off-road vehicles which could damage *E. thymoides* at any time of the year not just in the spring.

IX. Management Recommendations: To be aware of locations and don't publicize these known locations so not to encourage garden collectors. More location collections and vouchers should be collected. A stand age structure study may indicate low reproductive success and if so this plant should be protected. Protection would necessitate a change in status to threatened rather than merely watch list. However, a gradient in stand age structure would support less need to protect and if so this species should be dropped from any list.

- I. Ranunculus andersonii (Anderson's Buttercup)
- II. Family: Ranunculaceae
- III. Status: Uncommon
- IV. Known Locations:
- Idaho: Owyhee County:
- a. T. 9 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 27
 - b. East Fork of the Owyhee River near Dukes Creek.
 - c. T. 10 S., R. 3 W.
- Bingham County: T. 2 N., R. 32 E., Sec. 17 & 18
- Camas County: T. 2 S., R. 12 E., Sec. 9, 16 & 21
T 1 N., R 12 E., Sec. 30 NE 4
- Oregon:
- Nevada: Elko County: T. 45 N., R. 55 E., Sec. 16
- V. Soil Type: Well drained loam.
- VI. Habitat and Ecology: Grows in mid-mountain areas between sagebrush desert to juniper and mountain mahogany zone. Found in the Owyhee Mountains on the edge of loamy soils among rocks which are well-drained.
- VII. Remarks: Ranunculus andersonii occurs in several other sites in Idaho which I don't have reported above. R. andersonii flowers very early in the spring so is probably often missed or overlooked.
- VIII. Hazards: Grazing and range "improvement" programs.
- IX. Management Recommendations: This reported site should be protected and more information should be gathered on R. andersonii's range.

1. Montagnea aenarius (Desert Black Umbrella Mushroom)

II. Family: Coprinaceae

III. Status: Uncommon mushroom

IV. Known Locations:

V. Idaho: Blaine County:

a. T 3 N, R 18 E, Sec. 33. - most northern extension of
this species in Idaho

Owyhee County:

a. several collections

Ada County:

a. Several collections

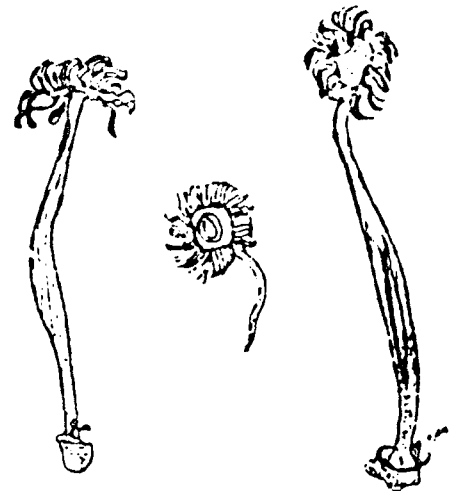
Elmore County

a. Several collections

Nevada: several collections

Arizona: Mohave County

California: Mohave Desert



Montagnea aenarius

VI. Soil Type: Moderately deep well drained loamy aridic soils.

VII. Habitat and Ecology: Occurs in *Artemisia tridentata*
ssp. *tridentata* sites in Idaho. Habitat data from other
states is lacking.

VIII. Remarks: *Montagnea aenarius* is collected as an oddity
and good habitat data is lacking. It was first found
and described from areas of the Mohave desert vegetation
in Arizona. Its role and importance in sagebrush communities
is unknown at the present time. Recent work on mycorrhizal

fungi associations with shrubs and trees points out that an unnoticed fungi such as *Montagnea aenarius* may be needed for revegetation of denuded sites. In strip mined areas and on private forestlands, some companies now introduce mycorrhizal fungi as a standard revegetation procedure. There is currently a university supported study being done on the Boise District of the BLM which is focusing on *M. aenarius* and other fungi. The study area is confined to the Birds of Prey Natural Area.

- VIII. Hazards: Range "improvements" and possibly repeated burning in sagebrush communities.
- IX. Management Recommendations: Work should be directed towards mapping *M. aenarius*'s distribution and description of its ecological requirements.

1. Muhlenbergia racemosa (Satin-grass)
- II. Family: Poaceae
- III. Status: State Watch List
- IV. Known Locations: Found throughout Canada and the western United States, nevertheless, infrequent in Idaho.
Idaho: Bingham, Bonner, and Fremont Counties
Blaine County:
 a. T 1 N, R 21 E, Sec. 23- Upper Road Canyon area- private land.
- V. Soil Type: shallow clay pan
- VI. Habitat and Ecology: Grows in dry habitats.
- VII. Remarks: Muhlenbergia racemosa is similiar to M. glomerata which occurs in wet habitats. They are not always treated as separate species, but M. glomerata is a diploid, while M. racemosa is tetraploid. This population occurs on private land near BLM land and may be part of an allotment.
- VIII. Hazards: Range "improvements" and heavy grazing.
- IX. Management recommendations: Protect known sites and find and monitor sites on BLM lands.