



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Melanthaceae R. Br.

Key to the Genera.

Leaves ~~smoothly broad~~ oval or elliptical to lanceolate; ~~plaited~~; seeds broadly winged.
Varathrum.

Leaves linear; ~~not plaited~~; seeds not winged, marginless or merely angled.

Perianth segments glandular; anthers confluent, one-celled, ^{oblong} falcate an opening; seeds angled.

Jygadenus.

Perianth segments glandless; anthers two-celled, ~~not~~ falcate an opening; seeds oblong or linear, not angled.

Toxildia.

Veratrum L.

Tall, leafy stemmed perennials; the stem and inflorescence pubescent; lower leaves usually clasping at the base, upper leaves commonly successively narrower; flowers yellowish, greenish or purple; seeds flat. About 12 species in the north temperate regions of both hemispheres.

Key to the Species.

Raceme paniculate, its branches more or less drooping.

V. eschscholtzii!

Raceme ^{ke-like,} ~~spicate~~ its branches when present ^{short and} ~~erect~~.

V. spicatum.

Veratrum eschscholtzii (Rum. & Schult.) Gray.

Veratrum lobelianum eschscholtzianum Rum. & Schult.
Syst. 72: 1055, 1830.

Nat. Hist.

Veratrum eschscholtzii Gray, Ann. Lye. N. Y. 4: 119, 1848.

A rather coarse perennial 9 to 15 dm. high; inflorescence 3 to 6 or even 9 dm. long; leaves densely pubescent on the undersurface. Low ground or sometimes moist hillside thickets near the coast from Kodiak Island to the southern boundary. Thence southward

to Oregon and Idaho. It was originally described from Sitka Sound, ^{in the western shore of Baranof Island.} ^{recent authors} ~~identified as~~ ^{insured to} *T. viride* by Watson who has been followed by many ^{that plant}. *T. eschscholtzii* differs from *T. viride* in ^{its} more pubescent undersurface of the ^{leaves} ~~lobes~~ in ^{its} longer and usually drooping branches of the raceme and in its usually slightly longer perianth segments.

Kodiak Island. - Without special locality, W. H. Dall Sept. 9, 1872, Conille & Kearney (No. 2335).

Alaska Peninsula. - Kukak Bay, Conille & Kearney (No. 2462).

Alexander Archipelago. - Mt. Wrastania, Baranof Island, B. W. Courmann, 1872 (No. 230). Gros Bay, Thomas Howell, 1873 (No. 1660). Bush Bay, M. W. Garman, 1875 (No. 121).

Veratrum spicatum Wight & Arn.
Erect perennial, 4 to 5.5 dm. high; stems pubescent above, glabrous or nearly so below; leaves clasping at the base, glabrous or sparingly pubescent above, pubescent ^{on the undersurface} ~~below~~; the lower ovate or elliptical, obtuse, 6 to 10 cm. long, 3 to 6 cm. wide, the upper ovate to lanceolate, 5 to 10 cm. long, 2 to 5 cm. wide, acute, the uppermost sometimes attenuate; inflorescence a ^{raceme} ~~raceme~~ ^{as here} spicate raceme, 10 to 20 cm. long, the raceme simple or branched, branches erect when present.

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bracts lanceolate or oblong, acute, usually ciliate, those of the lower flowers usually equaling or exceeding the perianth segments, the upper shorter but exceeding the pedicels; flowers glaucous green, the lower successively ~~of~~ overlapping the next above and in dried specimens appearing somewhat imbricated; perianth segments serrulate, slightly ciliate or glabrous, oblong, lanceolate or oblanceolate, acute or obtuse; capsules glabrous, about 15 mm. long.

Type specimen in the United States National Herbarium collected Aug. 12, 1901 on the bank of a stream in the tundra north of Teller Reindeer Station, Port Clarence, Alaska, by F. A. Walpole No. 1804.

V. spicatum differs from V. album, apparently its nearest relative, in its compact ^{spike-like} ~~raceme~~ raceme and in its longer, lanceolate or oblong, acute bracts ^{usually} ~~or exceeding~~ equaling the perianth segments in the lower flowers and at least considerably exceeding the pedicels in the upper. Specimens are at hand from the vicinity of Port Clarence, Alaska, the Commander Islands and Kamchatka, Siberia.

Port Clarence. - Bank of stream north of Teller Reindeer Station, F. A. Walpole, 1901 (No. 1804). An Tuhruk Channel, F. A. Walpole, 1901 (No. 1619). Without special locality, Canille & Kearney (No. 1903).

Zygadenus Michx.

Perennials from bulbs or rootstocks, glabrous; stems erect and leafy. About 15 species in North America with ~~one~~ 1 in Siberia.

Zygadenus elegans Pursh.

Zygadenus elegans Pursh, Fl. 1: 241, 1814.

Zygadenus chloranthus Richards. App. Frankl. Journ. 736, 1823.

Glaucous, 3 to 6 dm. high; lower leaves 15 to 3 dm. long, 3 to 13 mm. broad; flowers greenish yellow; perianth segments about 5 mm. long, the glands obcordate in outline. From Seward Peninsula, where it approaches the coast, and the valley of Kobuk River through the interior to the upper Yukon, thence southward to Saskatchewan and south to Nevada and Colorado. Originally described from material collected on the Starvation River in Idaho.

Valley of Kobuk River. - Camp Retreat, G.M. Stoney June 30, 1885. Without special locality, J.B. Mc Lurgan 1884, about 3 miles below Walker Lake, W.C. Mundwille Aug. 10, 1907.

Seward Peninsula. - Bank of tundra near the beach, Teller Rinder Station, L.A. Walpole, 1901 (Nos. 1769, 2038). Near Nome City, J.B. Elliott, 1900 (No. 15058). White Mountain near Golovin Sound, R.J. Collier July 15, 1900.

Region of Gens de Large and Kayahuk Rivers. - F.C. Schrader Aug. 2, 1899.

Between Cook Inlet and the Tanana. - Valley in the Alaska Mts. to E. of Glenn, July 26, 1899.

Upper Yukon. - Forty Mile Creek, Frederick
 Lurston, 1873 (No. 122). Fifty Mile River, A.L.
 Bolton 1879. Last Belkirk, M. W. Garman, 1879
 (No. 1067). Fine Tiger Rapids, J. B. Tarleton, 1879
 (No. 65).

1.
Lophodia Huds.

from an erect or horizontal rootstock,
perennial, with a scape-like flowering
stem and ~~a cluster~~ ^{clustered} of linear leaves at the base;
flowers in a terminal raceme, pedicels solitary
or clustered; ~~fruit with~~ ^{fruit with} ~~several~~ ^{several} glands. About
15 species in the north temperate and arctic regions
with 1 or 2 species in the Andes of South America.

Key to the Species.

Plant glabrous throughout; seeds unappendaged.

Stems ^{usually} with one or more leaves above the
basal cluster; flowers with the involucre at
summit of the pedicel; plant of dry cliffs.

L. coccinea.

Stems ^{usually} naked or with an inconspicuous
bract; flowers with the involucre at
base of the pedicel; plant of bogs.

L. palustris.

Plant with upper part of stem and in flower erect
viscid pubescent; seeds appendaged.

Involucre usually close to the flower, ^{slightly} ~~separately~~
lobed; seed tailed at each end, the testa
thin and close.

Involucre ^{a slight distance} ~~usually~~ ^{usually} ~~slightly~~ below the flower, 3 lobed
nearly to the middle; seed tailed at the outer
end only, the testa loose spongy.

L. intermedia.

Tofieldia coccinea Richards.

Tofieldia coccinea Richards. App. Frankl. Journ. 736.
1823.

Stems 2 to 13 cm. high rarely ~~exceeding~~ ^{reaching} the basal cluster leaves ~~more~~ than twice their length; raceme 6 to 9 mm. broad, ^{usually} compact; perianth segments ^{narrow}, purplish or greenish yellow. ^{slight expansion the capsule} Dry cliffs above timber-line in the forest region, descending to the tundra near sea level Arctic or alpine from Cape Lisburne to Juneau along the coast and throughout the Alutian chain. It was originally described from the "Arctic sea coast" and occurs ^{also} on the islands of Bering sea and in Siberia.

Beward Peninsula. - Cape Espenberg, J. T. White July 28, 1894. On tundra at Teller River Station, F. A. Waples, 1901 (Nos. 1499, 1775, 1937).

Alutian Chain. - Unalaska, Couille & Kearney (No. 2227), J. B. Flett, 1900 (No. 1798). Papef, Shumagin Islands, Knikaid July 8 to 19, 1899, M. W. Harrington 1871-72. Attu Island, W. V. C. Jacobs 1874, J. M. Macoun Aug. 29, 1871, Atka Island, L. M. Turner June 28, 1879. Chiachi Islands, Dall 1874.

Alaska Peninsula. - Couille & Kearney (No. 1693).

Juneau. - Above Silver Bow Summit at 3000 ft. alt., Grace E. Cooley Aug. 6, 1891.

6.

Topfieldia palustris Huds.

Topfieldia palustris Huds. Fl. Angl. ed. 2. 1817, 1778

Stems 3 to 27 cm. high usually exceeding the leaves by more than twice their length; raceme about 5 mm. broad, compact or elongated; perianth segments spatulate oblong, broader than in the preceding, usually greenish yellow, shorter than the capsule. In wet places from Seward Peninsula to the upper Yukon ^{and reported from the Chukotka region.} ~~and at Kaslof, Cook Inlet.~~ It ranges through British America to Labrador and Greenland and southward through the Canadian Rockies and to Lake Superior. It occurs also in Europe and Asia. Originally described from

Seward Peninsula. - Vicinity of Port Clarence, F. A. Walford, 1901 (Nos. 1653, 2008). Five miles north of Nome City, J. B. Flett, 1920 (No. 1559).

Cook Inlet. - Kaslof, W. H. Evans, 1898 (No. 672).

Upper Yukon. - Forty Mile Creek, Frederick Furstone, 1893 (No. 1212). White River, M. W. Furman, 1899 (No. 1130). Below Stewart River, J. B. Tarleton, 1879 (No. 541). Foot of Lake Lebarge J. B. Tarleton, ~~1879~~ 1879 (No. 542).

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Tofieldia intermedia Rydb.

Tofieldia intermedia Rydb. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 27: 5-28, 1900.
Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 11

One to 2 stems 15-30 dm. high, ~~some~~ ^{rather} leafy; basal leaves 3 to 27 cm. long, 2 to 5 mm. wide; racemes ~~short~~ ^{1 to 2.5} cm. long, compact; ~~pedicels short, 1 to 3 mm. long.~~ In bogs or marshes from Alaska Cook Inlet to the southern boundary thence southward to Washington, Montana and Wyoming. Type locality Shik-shook Lake in southeastern Alaska.

Cook Inlet. - Karilof, W. H. Evans, 1895 (No. 670).

Prince William Sound. - near Area, Canille & Kearney (No. 1327)

Southeastern Alaska. - Port Chester, Annette Island, B. H. Townsend July, 1890. Shik-shook Lake, M. W. Gorman, 1895 (No. 78). Yes Bay, Thos. Hamill, 1895 (No. 1666).

Lophodia occidentalis Wats.

Lophodia occidentalis Wats. Proc. Am. Acad. 14: 283,
1879.

Stems 1 to 4 dm. high; ~~leaves~~ ^{composit or subcomposit} leaves 2 to 20 cm.
long; racemes ^{1 to 2 cm. long}; ~~composit or some-~~
~~what lax~~. In bogs from Yakutat Bay south-
ward to the southern boundary, thence to Men-
docino Co. California. Originally described from
specimens collected in California and Washington.

Yakutat Bay ^{to Juneau} - On Khatank Island, Frederick
Lumston, 1892 (No. 44). Juneau, Coville & Kearney (No.
2622).

Alexander archipelago. - Douglas Islands, France
E. Cooley July 25, 1871. Sitka, Kellogg, 1869 (No. 409),
Canby, 1897 (No. 293), Bischoff, 1865-66, Japan-
ski Island, Evermann, 1892 (No. 259), Kitchi-
kan, J. B. Lott, 1911 (No. 200).