

# **Borealis**

the newsletter of the



October 1993

P.O. Box 141613 Anchorage, Alaska 99514

## **Anchorage Chapter News**

The first ANPS Anchorage Chapter meeting of the 1993 - 1994 season will be held Monday, October 4th at 6:30PM in the First Congregational Church at 2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd. This is the large brown church building just east of Wendler Junior High School on the south side of Northern Lights. Please use the entrance at the back of the church.

The first meeting of the season is the traditional Pot-Luck meeting. Please bring a baked dish, vegetable, bread or dessert in a quantity large enough to share with three times the number of people in your group. ANPS will provide hot and cold beverages, paper plates, and plastic utensils. Guests are always welcome at ANPS meetings, so invite any interested friends to join the party.

Everyone enjoys seeing new plants and new locations, so bring slides of your summer activities and/or plants that you have photographed to share with the group. This will be a fun meeting, so please plan to attend.

Because of the early meeting time, no meeting of the Board of Directors will be held this month.

## **Mystery Plant**

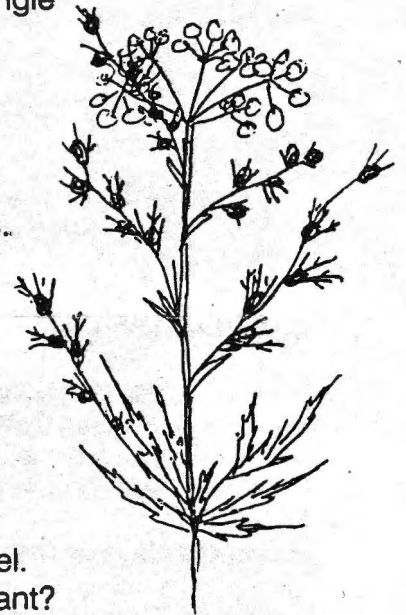
This spindly perennial can be found growing on the margins of lakes. It has a bulbous root and a single stem that grows two to three feet tall.

The leaves are finely toothed and pinnately divided with narrow segments.

Tiny white flowers are arranged in a two-inch diameter umbel that rarely produces seeds.

Instead, reproduction is by bulbils on the side of the stems below the umbel.

Can you name this plant?



## **Field Trip Thanks**

Thanks to everyone who helped with this summer's field trips. As usual, it was a successful summer with several interesting discoveries made along the way. On one trip, the group found an elderberry bush with yellow berries and another plant with white watermelon berries. A special thank you to all those people who helped with the BLM project and participated in the impromptu trip in September.

## Odoriferous Plants

In the following excerpt from an article in the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society newsletter, a short list of plants with distinctive odors is offered along with a description of the fragrance:

*Allium anceps* - if you don't bruise the plant, the flowers have the fragrance of carnations; bruising gives a typical onion odor.

*Angelica breweri* - celery odor



**BOREALIS** - The Newsletter of the  
Alaska Native Plant Society

### ANPS State Officers

President - Sally Karabelnikoff  
Vice President - Jean Poore  
Secretary - Jean Tam  
Treasurer - Yaso Gurusingan-Thiru

### Anchorage Chapter Officers

President - Charles "Chuck" Adsit  
Vice President - Karen Senzig  
Secretary - Andrea Woods  
Treasurer - Jim Poore  
Rep. to State Board - Frank Bogardus

### Borealis Staff

Editor - Lynne Balogh  
Circulation - Martha Hatch

Borealis is published monthly except for June, July, August and September. For information on how to join the Alaska Native Plant Society or to send questions, comments and articles, please contact:

The Alaska Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 141613 Anchorage, AK 99514

*Asclepias spp.* - blossoms described as "too sweet".

*Balsamorhiza hookeri* - The fragrance of See's candy (chocolate).

*Ceanothus velutinus* - leaves when bruised have the fragrance of cinnamon.

Alfalfa and clover - sweet fragrance.

*Melilotus* is commonly called sweet clover.

*Glyptopleura marginata* - commonly called peanut butter plant because of the odor.

*Ledum groenlandica* - leaves when bruised smell like Shinola shoe polish.

*Mimulus densus* - skunky odor. This is true of other mimuli and also of some polemoniums.

Mint and *Monardella spp.* - tangy fragrance.

*Nicotinia attenuata* - undescrivable noxious odor. How could anyone have smoked these leaves? (One person commented on the "perfume" of it at dusk?)

*Osmorhiza chilensis* - anise odor.

*Pinus jeffreyi* - the bark smells like vanilla or pineapple.

*Pinus ponderosa* - the bark has a turpentine odor.

## **New Combination for *Parasenecio***

The species historically referred to as *Cacalia* has been given the generic name of *Parasenecio*. Jason Grant of the University of Maryland has suggested a new combination for the single species found in North America, calling it *Parasenecio auriculata*.

Although a member of primarily an Asiatic group of species, *P. auriculata* has been collected on five islands at the westernmost end of the Aleutian chain. Its presence is due to an association of vegetation typical of Kamchatka, found on Attu, Agattu, Alaid, Kiska and Buldir, but not known to the remainder of the Aleutian chain. A copy of Grant's article is attached.

## **Geology Study Tour of Southeast Australia**

Ann Pasch, Professor of Geology at the University of Alaska, is planning a study tour of the geology of Victoria and New South Wales in December of this year. A letter describing the tour is attached. If you are interested in joining the tour, her telephone number is included in the letter.

## **Mystery Plant Answer**

*Circuta bulbifera* -- Poison Water Hemlock

A member of the parsley, or Apiacea, family, the Poison Water Hemlock was not originally thought to be in Alaska. However, it has been found in the Interior and recently in the Knik area.

### **NOTICE**

If you plan to attend the Alaska Rare Plant Working Group meeting on Oct. 28 and 29, call Ginny Moran ( ) for more information on agenda and other details. The meeting will be held in Fairbanks at the B.L.M. management support center.

# A New Combination for the Single American Element of *Parasenecio* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)

Jason R. Grant

Department of Botany, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742-5815, U.S.A.

**ABSTRACT.** In accordance with the acceptance of the generic name *Parasenecio* for the Asiatic-centered species historically referred to *Cacalia*, a new combination is made for the single species that ranges to North America: *Parasenecio auriculata* (A. P. de Candolle) J. R. Grant.

*Cacalia auriculata* was described by A. P. de Candolle (1837) from a specimen collected in 1835 by Turczaninow between Yakutsk and Okhotsk, Yakutia, Russia. It ranges from Kamtchatka to the Commander and Kurile Islands (Russia), to Hokkaido and northern Honshu (Japan), and from the Russian Far East to Manchuria (China) and Korea (Hultén, 1930). In Alaska, it has been collected on five islands at the westernmost end of the Aleutian chain roughly adjacent to the Commander Islands, Attu, Agattu, and Alaid of the Near Islands, and Kiska and Buldir of the Rat Islands.

*Cacalia auriculata* is one of a number of species of primarily Asiatic distribution that ranges to the westernmost islands of the Aleutian chain. Hultén (1937) documented the American range for several species with this type of distribution pattern including *Senecio palmatus* Pallas and *Cirsium kamtschaticum* Ledebour. The vegetation of the islands where these species are found is "a distinctly Kamtchatkan type" (Hultén, 1937: 37). The presence of these species in the Aleutians is due to their association with "high-grown vegetation" typical of Kamchatka that also extends to the Near and Rat Island groups, but is unknown to the remainder and majority of the Aleutian chain (Hultén, 1937).

Robinson & Brettell (1973) described the genus *Koyamacalia* for the Asian species referred to *Cacalia*. *Cacalia auriculata* was transferred into *Koyamacalia* along with 46 other species (Robinson & Brettell, 1973). Jeffrey & Yi-Ling (1984) pointed out that *Koyamacalia* H. E. Robinson & R. D. Brettell was a later synonym of *Parasenecio* W. W. Smith & Small. Jeffrey (1992) again commented on *Parasenecio*, but as in the earlier work, no new combinations were made. In order to update no-

menclature in the North American flora, the following new combination is made:

*Parasenecio auriculata* (A. P. de Candolle) J. R. Grant, comb. nov. Basionym: *Cacalia auriculata* A. P. de Candolle, Prod. 6: 329. 1837 [1838]. TYPE: Inter Ochotiam [Okhotsk] et Jacutiam [Yakutsk], *N. Turczaninow s.n.* (holotype, G-DC, photo on microfiche seen).

*Ligularia auriculata* Turczaninow ex A. P. de Candolle, Prod. 6: 329. 1837, pro syn.

*Koyamacalia auriculata* (A. P. de Candolle) H. E. Robinson & R. D. Brettell, Phytologia 27: 271. 1973.

**Specimens examined.** UNITED STATES. Alaska. Near Islands, Attu Island, 13°52'56"N, 173°15'E, 25 July 1943, *Beals A* (ALA); Attu Island, 13°52'56"N, 173°15'E, *Beals*, 1943 (ALA); Attu Island, Massacre Bay area, 10 July 1973, *Williams 3212* (US); Agattu Island, 13°52'26"N, 173°33'06"E, 13 Aug. 1974, *Trapp 104* (ALA); Attu Island, Peaceful Valley, near Navy Town, 13°52'50"N, 173°11'E, 18 Aug. 1983, *Friedman & Michaelson 83-64* (ALA); Rat Islands, Buldir Island, 14°52'21"N, 175°56'E, 14 July 1974, *Dick 164* (ALA); Buldir Island, 14°52'21"N, 175°56'E, 25 Aug. 1974, *Dick 403* (ALA).

**Acknowledgments.** I thank Harold E. Robinson (Smithsonian Institution) for bringing my attention to this species, and for review of the manuscript. I also thank Alan R. Batten of the Northern Plant Documentation Center, Herbarium, University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks, for sending data on the specimens at ALA.

#### Literature Cited

- Candolle, A. P. de. 1837. *Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis*. Vol. 6. Paris, Strasbourg & London.
- Hultén, E. 1930. Flora of Kamtchatka and the adjacent islands. IV Dicotyledonae, Pyrolaceae-Compositae. Kungl. Svenska Vetenskapakademiens Handlingar Tredje Serien. Band 8. N:Ö 2. Stockholm, Almqvist & Wiksells Boktryckeri A.-B.
- . 1937. Flora of the Aleutian Islands and Westernmost Alaska Peninsula with Notes on the Flora of Commander Islands. Bokförlags Aktiebolaget Thule, Stockholm.
- Jeffrey, C. 1992. The tribe Senecioneae (Compositae) in the Mascarene Islands with an annotated world checklist of the genera of the tribe. Notes on Compositae: VI. Kew Bull. 47: 49-109.
- & C. Yi-Ling. 1984. Taxonomic studies on the tribe Senecioneae (Compositae) of Eastern Asia. Kew Bull. 39: 205-446.
- Robinson, H. E. & R. D. Brettell. 1973. Studies in the Senecioneae (Asteraceae). IV. The Genera *Mesadenia*, *Syneilesis*, *Miricalia*, *Koyamacalia*, and *Sinacalia*. Phytologia 27: 265-276.