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*confusus*. The true *Sporobolus ramulosus* has not yet been collected within our limits, but it is probably identical with *S. racemosus*, Vasey, collected by Dr. Palmer, and No. 1425 of Pringle, both from Chihuahua, Mexico.

MELICA SMITHII (Porter). I recently received from Prof. W. J. Beal, specimens of *Avena Smithii*, Porter, collected in Northern Michigan. I had long suspected the proper reference of this grass to *Avena*; and these specimens enabled me to make a satisfactory examination, which resulted in the opinion that it should be placed in the genus *Melica*, and therefore *M. Smithii*. It will be observed that in Prof. Porter's description it is stated that the flowers are not hairy-tufted at the base, and the awn is straight, characters which chiefly distinguish *Melica* from *Avena*. The species is very near *Melica aristata*, Thurb.

GEO. VASEY.

### Notes on Some Rare Grasses.

The writer, on a recent visit to the West, spent some time at Garden City, in western Kansas. This place is located on the north bank of the Arkansas River. On the south side of the river is a range of sand hills which, the people say, were some years ago bare of vegetation and composed of loose and shifting sand, but which of late years have been gradually acquiring a covering of grass. I went to investigate these ridges or hills and found that the principal vegetation was made up of two kinds of grass, which were deeply rooted in the sand.

One of these was *Andropogon Hallii*, very similar to *A. provincialis*, but with thicker spikes and culms, and more succulent, bluish-green leaves. The other grass was, to my great gratification, *Redfieldia flexuosa*, growing rather sparsely from deep rooted creeping rhizomas, and serving to bind the sand together in the same way that *Ammophila longifolia* binds the sand dunes on the lake shore near Chicago. The history of this grass is interesting. It appears to have been first collected by Dr. J. M. Bigelow on the Canadian River. Next it was collected by Mr. Elisha Hall, in 1862, probably on the Republican River, although the locality is not recorded. The grasses of Mr. Hall's collection were elaborated by Prof. Thurber, and this grass was then

described and named, doubtfully, as *Graphephorum flexuosum*. Next, a few specimens were collected by Rothrock and Wolf, on Wheeler's Exploration, in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, in 1873. From these sources were obtained all the specimens of which I have knowledge in existing herbaria. I have been for years past hoping that it would again be found, and its rediscovery at Garden City is therefore very satisfactory. Here it is in abundance. Probably it is common enough in similar situations at many points on the Canadian and Arkansas rivers. The leaves are thick and rigid, channelled and terminating in long, involute points. It should hereafter become well known to botanists.

Confusion has sometimes occurred as to the distinction between *Sporobolus cuspidatus* and *S. depauperatus*, (*Vilfa*, Torr.). I found abundance of the former on the prairies of Dakota. It grows in strong tufts, with *erect* culms and *appressed* leaves, and a long, slender panicle, and approaches *Muhlenbergia Wrightii*; indeed, it belongs rather to *Muhlenbergia* than to *Sporobolus*. *S. depauperatus* is a species of the Rocky Mountains, with decumbent culms, shorter panicle, and glumes wanting the long cuspidate point.

GEO. VASEY.

### Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

*American Woods, exhibited by actual specimens and with copious explanatory text.*—Romeyn B. Hough, B.A., Part I., *Representing twenty-five species by twenty-seven sets of sections.*

This very neat and interesting collection will be a welcome surprise to those who are not already familiar with Mr. Hough's beautiful wood-sections, and the accompanying pamphlet, with many illustrations supplemented by a glossary and descriptions of species, makes a complete little text-book. A novel feature will be noted in finding three keys, one based upon the flowers, one upon the leaves and a third upon the fruit, so that having either, a novice may find his way made easy to determine the specimen.

*August in the pines.*—Mary Treat. (Garden and Forest, i., 362.)

*Botanizing tour in the South.*—Gerald McCarthy. (Vick's Ill. Monthly, pp. 295-297, illustrated.)

This proves to be an interesting account of Asheville, the