

PROCEEDINGS
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JUNCUS COLUMBIANUS, AN UNDESCRIBED RUSH
FROM THE COLUMBIA PLAINS.

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At the request of Professor C. V. Piper, of Pullman, Washington, I publish at this time a description of a *Juncus* from the Columbia Plains, which belongs to the difficult and perplexing group of which Watson's *Juncus nevadensis* is the best known representative.

Juncus columbianus sp. nov.

Plant perennial, 20 to 70 cm. high, tufted, erect; rootstocks about 2 mm. in diameter, horizontal, the yearly growth commonly 1.5 to 3 cm.; stems nearly terete, commonly 1.5 to 2 mm. in diameter at the base, much slenderer above, with 1 or 2 or rarely 3 leaves; basal leaves few, sheaths with broad membranaceous margins, auricles conspicuous, 2 to 3 mm. long, and blades terete, sometimes 20 cm. in length, inconspicuously nodose, usually erect; cauline leaves similar to the basal, the upper with shorter blades; leaves of the inflorescence reduced to scarious bracts, the lowest occasionally with a herbaceous blade; inflorescence rarely exceeding 7 cm. in height, bearing commonly 4 to 8 or sometimes even 20 glomerules, rarely reduced to a single one; perianth 3 to 3.5 mm. in length, at maturity of a pale reddish brown color or stramineous, its parts narrowly lanceolate with setose apex, stamens 6 or sometimes reduced to 3 by the abortion of those opposite the inner perianth parts,

the anthers about as long as the filaments, often a little longer: style conspicuous, about 2 mm. in length: capsule equaling the perianth or a little shorter, cinnamon-colored or sometimes castaneous at the apex, narrowly oblong, acute at the apex, the style usually persistent and its basal portion developed into a distinct beak though not splitting with the dehiscence of the capsule; seed pale brown, oblong, 0.4 to 0.5 mm. in length (the body about 0.3 mm. long), the outer coat with a tendency to be loose, reticulated in about 20 to 26 longitudinal rows, the areolae usually isodiametrical, transversely plurilineolate.

Type specimen in the United States National Herbarium, collected July 20, 1896, in wet meadows near Pullman, Washington, by A. D. E. Elmer (No. 235).

Juncus columbianus differs from typical Californian *Juncus nevadensis* in the paler color of its flowers, comparatively shorter anthers, less well-defined beak of the capsule, and much paler seeds with nearly twice as many rows of areolae, always trans-lineolate. The recently described *Juncus suksdorfii* Rydberg* is another plant of the same group, more closely resembling *nevadensis* than *columbianus*. It is distinguishable from the latter by its greater size and robustness, its height commonly 60 to 100 cm. and the annual growth of its rootstocks 5 to 10 cm., usually larger inflorescence, and almost always dark brown longer perianth 4 to 5 mm. in length, anthers much longer than the filaments (commonly 2 to 3 times as long), and body of the capsule not plainly visible at maturity at the mouth of the perianth, as is usual in *columbianus*.

The specimens of *Juncus columbianus* in the National Herbarium are as follows:

Washington:

Klickitat County, "springs, Columbia River," W. N. Suksdorf, August 8, 1881.

Klickitat County, near Columbus, W. N. Suksdorf, June 10, 1886.

Douglas County, Egbert Spring, altitude about 1300 feet, Sandberg and Leiberg, July 1 and 5, 1893 (Nos. 358, 388).

Douglas County, Wilson Creek, Lake and Hull, August 6, 1892 (No. 389).

*Rydberg, Bull. Torr. Club, 26: 541, 1899.

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Spokane County, near Spangle, *W. N. Suksdorf*, June 30, 1884.

Spokane County, Marshall Junction, *C. V. Piper*, July 2, 1896 (No. 2281).

Whitman County, Pullman, *A. D. E. Elmer*, July 20, 1896 (No. 235).

Oregon:

Gilliam County, Pine Creek, *J. B. Leiberg*, June 8, 1894 (No. 196).

Blue Mountains, *W. C. Cusick*, June, 1884 (No. 1201).

Idaho:

Nez Perces County, along Hatwai Creek, *J. H. Sandberg*, May 27, 1892 (No. 261).

Montana:

Gallatin County, Bozeman, *P. A. Rydberg*, July 22, 1895 (Nos. 2210, 2212a).