

A NEW LARCH FROM ALASKA

By W. F. WIGHT

LARIX ALASKENSIS Wight, sp. nov. Alaska Larch

A small tree, attaining a maximum height of about 9 m. and a diameter of 20 cm.; leaf-fascicles at the ends of branches 3 to 5 mm. long; leaves pale green, 5 to 20 mm. long, about 5 mm. broad, rounded on the upper surface, slightly keeled on the lower; cones borne at the ends of lateral branchlets 3 to 5 mm. long, ovoid or short-oblong, 10 to 15 mm. long, 9 to 12 mm. broad; cone scales slightly longer than broad, the larger ones 8 to 10 mm. long, 7 to 9 mm. broad, rounded at the apex, abruptly contracted toward the base; bracts of the cone about one-third as long as the cone scales, ovate, acute; flowers not seen.

Distribution.—Upper Kuskokwim River to the Yukon and Tanana rivers.

Type-specimen: No. 379,803, U. S. Nat. Mus.; collected August 6, 1902, at Tanana, Alaska, by A. J. Collier (no. 117).

Larix alaskensis differs from *L. laricina* in its usually shorter leaves, but more particularly in its cones. The cone scales are longer in proportion to their breadth; the bracts of the cone scales are ovate and without a projecting mucronate point at the apex, while *L. laricina* has bracts short-oblong to nearly orbicular in outline, and commonly emarginate or lacerate on either side of a mucronate projection at the apex. From *L. dahurica*, the most closely related Asiatic species, it differs in its usually shorter leaves, in its smaller cones, with the cone scales less widely spreading in dried specimens, and in its narrower cone bracts.

Between the Yukon and Cook Inlet.—Upper Kuskokwim, Herron, August, 1899; Tanana Valley, east of Cantwell River, Brooks & Prindle, August 27, 1902; Kaltag, on the Yukon, Collier, 1902 (no. 147); Tanana, Collier, 1902 (nos. 117, 118); Weare, Georgeson, 1900 (no. 6).

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XVII

- a. Fruiting branch.
- b. Back of cone scale.
- c. Cone scale, with ovules.
- d. Bract of cone scale.
- e. Bract of cone scale of *L. laricina*.



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