PLANT NOTES

162/2. **Psoralea americana** L., 1753, *Sp. Pl.*, **2**, 763; *P. dentata* DC., 1825, *Prodr.*, **2**, 221. 21, Middx.; rubbish-tip, Hanwell, 1952, B.S.B.I. Excursion, det. Miss D. M. Hillcoat, E. B. Bangerter & D. H. Kent. A perennial species, sending out numerous diffusely spreading or procumbent branches 35-70 cm. long. Leaflets in threes, pinnately ternate, dark shining green, rhomboidal or roundish-ovate, repand-toothed, wedge-shaped and entire towards the base, nearly smooth, glandular-dotted, the middle leaflet stalked, longer than the other two; petioles and pedicels glandulose. Flowers rather small, pale whitish-lilac, in pyramidal or oblong-pointed short and interrupted spikes or racemes on long axillary peduncles. Bracts ovate-lanceolate, shorter than the striated glandulose and villose calyx. Pod without beak, 1-seeded, indehiscent. Native of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Spain and Gibraltar. —D. H. Kent.

220/18. **Epilobium linnaeoides** Hook. f., 1844, *Fl. Antarct.*, **1**, 10, t 6. 58, Cheshire; Helsby, where it has persisted since 1938: H.16, W. Galway; near Leenane, established for about a mile along the roadside west of the village, 1953. Plant with herbaceous stem 5-20 cm. long, slender, creeping, and rooting at nodes; usually widely and irregularly branched, glabrous, or with two faint pubescent lines towards the tips of the branches. Leaves opposite, 4-8 mm. in diameter, orbicular, petioled, flaccid and membranous, closely and sharply denticulate. Flowers in the axils of leaves remote from the ends of the branches, white or rose, 3-5 mm. in diameter. Calyx lobes lanceolate, shorter than the deeply cleft petals. Stigma clavate. Capsules 25-50 mm. long, perfectly glabrous; peduncles usually much elongated, 5-10 cm. Seeds densely papillose. Native of New Zealand and Tasmania.—Miss V. Gordon.

383/9×8. **Senecio × viscidulus** Scheele, 1844, *Linnaea*, **18**, 480, (**S. sylvaticus × viscosus**). 17, Surrey. On August 16, 1947, in the company of Dr. Cyril West, I was examining a very large colony of *Senecio viscosus* L. on the sandy ground by Frensham Little Pond, when we noticed two plants which, from their habit, colour of leaves, and quantity of material attached to their viscid stems and leaves, seemed obviously different from the numerous plants of *S. viscosus* with which they were growing. More careful examination of fresh material at home showed that one (Reference "A") was certainly a hybrid between that species and *S. sylvaticus* L. which was abundant on the adjacent heathland. The

other (Reference "B") seemed likely to be of the same parentage but very much closer to *S. viscosus*.

Both had flowers with conspicuous ray florets and showed a general resemblance to *S. viscosus*, from which they differed in reduced glandular development (which explained the lesser amount of wind blown material attached to them as already mentioned), in the pappus being slightly more silvery in colour, and having abortive achenes which tended to remain attached to the receptacles. In "A" the achenes were all very ill-developed but in "B" some of them had swollen though not to the same size as those of the parents.

In "A" the evidence of *S. sylvaticus* was apparent in the less spreading branches, the darker coloured, less glandular leaves which were enlarged and auricled at the base, in the more slender peduncles and capitula (the latter only 6 mm. broad at the base, compared with 8 mm. in *S. viscosus* and 5·5 mm. in *S. sylvaticus* from the same locality) and in the presence of numerous silky hairs in the furrows of the achenes. In "B" the same characters were discernible but less evident.

The countries from which hybrids of this parentage are known include Germany and Austria (Hegi, 1929), Czechoslovakia (Domin, 1936), Holland (Heukels, 1933) and Sweden (Hylander, 1941). Records from France appear to be doubtful (Fournier, 1928 & 1946). The synonymy is as follows:—

S. VISCIDULUS Scheele, 1844 (*Linnaea*, **18**, 480)

S. viscoso-silvaticus var. *intermedius* Lasch ex Scheele, 1844 (*l.c.*) in syn.

S. intermedius Lasch in Rabenh., 1846 (*Bot. Centralbl.*, **1846**, 131)

S. intermedius Wiesb., 1874 (*Oesterr. bot. Zeitschr.*, **24**, 109)

S. wiesbaurii Halácsy & Braun, 1882 (*Nachtr. Fl. Niederoesterr*, 83)

The correct hybrid name is therefore *S.* × *viscidulus* Scheele. It seems a little surprising that it has not been detected in this country earlier but it is only in recent years that the parents have occurred together with any frequency. Prior to the rapid spread of *S. viscosus* this species was almost restricted to the coast and fens where there is very little heathy ground favoured by *S. sylvaticus*.

Material of both forms of the hybrid, and of the parents, from by Frensham Little Pond was exhibited at the Society's Exhibition Meeting of November 28, 1953.

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J. E. Lousley.

510/2b. Cerinthe minor var. **hispida** Turrill, 1924, *Kew Bull.*, **1924**, 355. 34, W. Glos.; (5) Portway tip, Bristol, 1950, I. W. Evans, comm. W. R. Price. Differs from the var. *minor* in having the pedicels markedly hispid with spreading white hairs. The var. *minor* appears to occur in the central and western parts of the Mediterranean region, and in central Europe. The var. *hispida* is found in the eastern part of the Mediterranean region, Armenia, Kurdistan and Syria. Both var. *minor* and var. *hispida* occur in the Caucasus.—D. H. Kent.

515/11b. **Cuscuta australis** var. **cesatiana** (Bertoloni) Yuncker, 1932, *Mem. Torrey Bot. Cl.*, **18**, 126; *C. cesatiana* Bertoloni, 1847, *Fl. Ital.*, **7**, 623; *C. polygonarum* Cesati, 1849, *Index Seminum Genev.*, 22; *C. obtusiflora* var. *cesatiana* Engelmann, 1859, *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis*, **1**, 493. 18, S. Essex; rubbish-tip, Barking, parasitic on *Artemisia verlotorum* Lamotte, *Senecio squalidus* L. and *Polygonum aviculare* L., 1953, S T. Jermyn and B. T. Ward, det. A. Melderis and J. F. Shillito. 21, Middx.; Enfield, parasitic on Chinese Asters in a garden, 1953, Miss J. Maude, det. A. Melderis and J. F. Shillito. 34, W. Glos.; Kingswood, Bristol, parasitic on *Polygonum aviculare* L., 1932, C. I. Sandwith, *Rep. Bot. Soc. & E.C.*, **1932**, 346 (1933), as *C. tinei* Insenga subsp. *cesatiana* (Bert.).

Plant annual with slender twining yellow-orange coloured stems; parasitic, attached to the host plant by suckers. Often on *Polygonum* sp., but also on a variety of other herbaceous plants., e.g. *Artemisia*, *Genista*, *Xanthium*, *Pelargonium*, etc. Flowers yellowish, about 2 mm. diameter, mostly 5-parted, in clusters (scorpioid cymes). Corolla lobes commonly longer than the tube, obtuse or acutish, and narrower than in *C. australis* sens. str. Scales narrow with long fringes, more or less bifid and about reaching the stamens, or exserted. Filaments longer than the anthers. Ovary globose, flattened on top. Stigmas 2, capitate, rising each side of a cleft in the ovary, this cleft widening and deepening considerably on ripening. Stigmas persistent. Switzerland and Italy to India.—J. F. Shillito and B. T. Ward.

675/1. Cypripedium calceolus L. 64, Mid-west York; edge of the Duke of Devonshire's estate, Upper Wharfedale, 5 plants, which were not in flower, 1952, E. Lloyd Jones and E. Hardy (1952, *Country-side* (*N.S.*), **16**, 277). The recorders also give the following information acquired from a companion whose late father was the original finder of the colony.

Date.	No. of plants.	No. in flower.
1930	14	1
1931-33	?	0
1934	?	1
1935	8	0
1936-39	?	0
1940	3	0
1941-42	5	0
1943	5	1
1944	5	0
1945-46	3	0
1947-48	2	0
1949-51	3	0

Grazing sheep are said to be the main danger to the plants.—D. H. KENT.