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WHAT IS *AGOSERIS APICULATA* GREENE?

BY WILLIAM A. DAYTON.

In what Forest Service range plant records term the "2d Holy Cross Collection," of 60 specimens (our serial nos. 2378 to 2437, inclusive) received January, 1912, from the Holy Cross National Forest, Colorado, was a specimen of mountain dandelion, field no. 5055, serial no. 2404, collected by Ranger Robert T. Sobey, and which was retained by the late Dr. E. L. Greene (at that time consulting expert of the Forest Service in matters of range plant identification) as a new and undescribed *Agoseris*. In Fedde's "Repertorium Specierum Novarum," vol. 13, p. 324 (1914) Dr. Greene named and described this new plant as follows:

"*Agoseris apiculata* Greene, spec. nov.

"Planta admodum robusta, usque 4 dm alta. Folia, petiolo longo latiusculo incluso, 1,5–2,5 dm longa, lanceolata, saepissime integerrima, interdum ± retrorsim dentata, utrinque viridia, vix glaucescentia, et petiolorum marginibus albo-lanatis exceptis glabra. Caput magnum sed breve, 2 cm longum et paullulo latius quam longius. Involucri bracteae 3-seriales, imbricatae, extimae ovato-lanceolatae, triangulari-apiculatae, intimae obovatae, conspicue cuspidatae. Achenia tenuiter fusiformia, rostro-brevi incluso 1,5 cm longa, pappo candido perfragili coronata.

"The specimens are from an altitude of 9500 feet in the mountains of west-central Colorado, on lands of the Holy Cross Forest Reservation. They were collected, 8 August, 1911, by R. J. Sabey[1] of the U. S. Forest Service. The species is the largest of all Rocky Mountain members of the genus, and noteworthy among all species for the broad but short heads; the beak of the achene being short, and not at all filiform-attenuate."

Since this time the identity of *Agoseris apiculata* has been among the mysteries of botany. No specimen labeled "*Agoseris apiculata*" exists in the type or main collections of the U. S.

[1]Clearly a clerical or typographical error for R. *T.* Sobey.

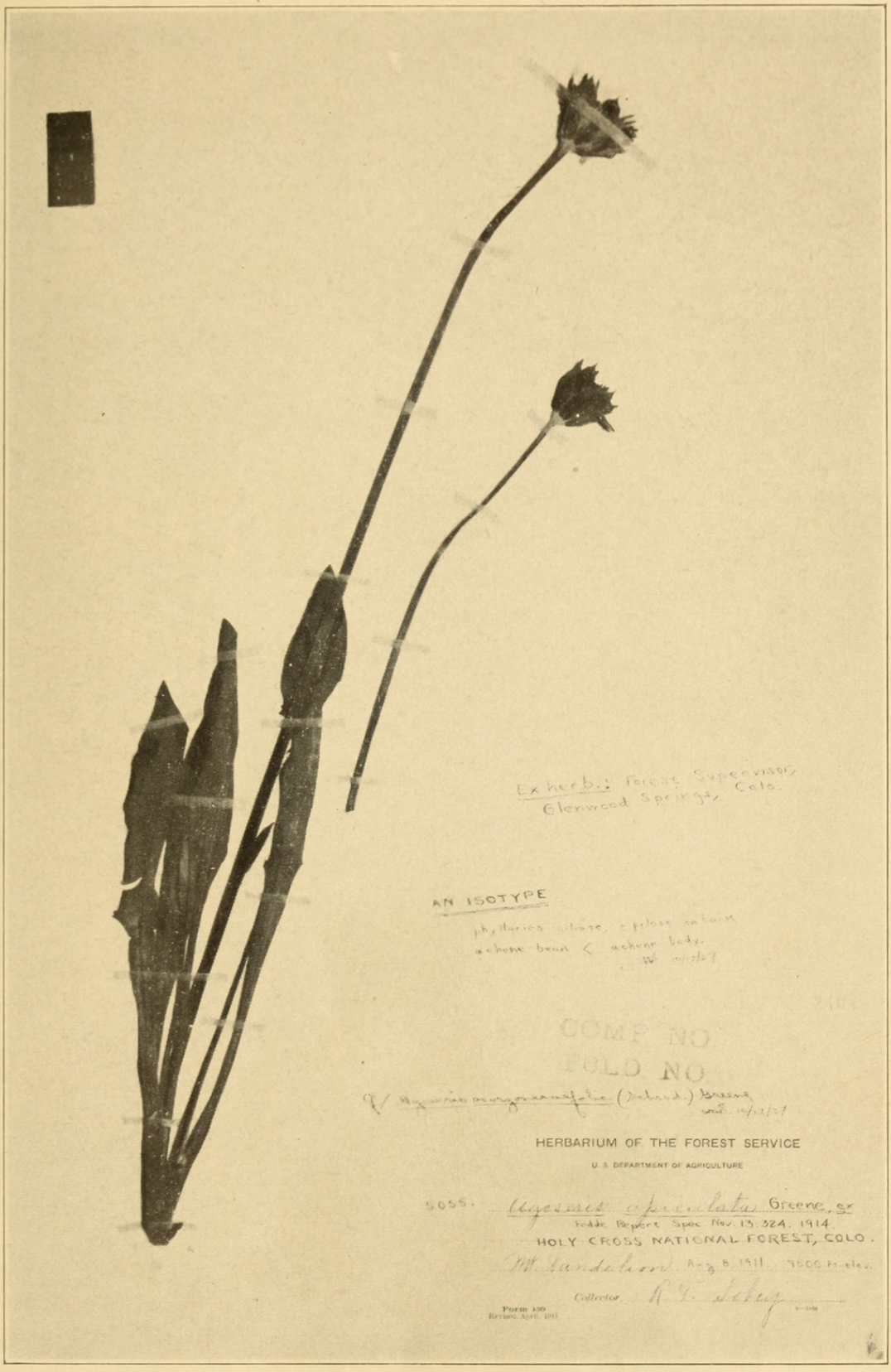
National Herbarium nor in the Washington or Denver offices of the federal Forest Service. Father Nieuwland of Notre Dame University (where Dr. Greene's herbarium is deposited) very courteously, at my request, went all through Dr. Greene's *Agoseris* series and was unable to locate the type or any other specimen of *A. apiculata.*

In his "Flora of the Rocky Mountains and Adjacent Plains" Dr. Rydberg remands *Agoseris apiculata* to synonymy under his earlier *A. maculata* Rydb., evidently basing his action on Dr. Greene's description.

Supervisor Harold L. Borden of the Holy Cross National Forest has recently located in the Forest herbarium at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, what is obviously the cotype, or isotype, of *Agoseris apiculata* Greene (Plate I) and has forwarded it to Washington for review. The phyllaries are ciliate and more or less pilose on the back, and the beaks of the achenes are shorter than the achene-body. The specimen fully accords with Dr. Greene's printed diagnosis and seems to the writer to agree with the usual conception of *Agoseris scorzoneraefolia* (Schrad.) Greene. Dr. S. F. Blake, to whom the plant was submitted for expert opinion, seemed to think that it was either *scorzoneraefolia* or else *maculata,* the latter a species then unknown to him. Through the courtesy of Doctors Small and Rydberg the type of *Agoseris maculata* Rydb. has been lent to the Forest Service for photographic purposes (Plate II).[1] It is evidently a plant closely related to "*Agoseris apiculata*" but smaller and with tawny instead of white tomentum about the heads; the phyllaries show the conspicuous purple dots from which the species derives its name and lack the conspicuously apiculated tips of *apiculata;* the achenes probably are not so pronouncedly beaked as those of *apiculata* but the material is too undeveloped to be sure on this point.

Dr. Blake has now seen the material of *Agoseris maculata* and I think he sympathizes with the writer's feeling that botany could well endure the suppression of *Agoseris apiculata* by mergence with the older, variable *A. scorzoneraefolia.*

[1]There seem to be only two authentic specimens of *Agoseris maculata* Rydb. on record: *Shear 4605* (the type) and *Osterhout 2643,* both from Colorado. Neither seems to be represented in the U. S. National Herbarium; both are on deposit in the N. Y. Botanical Garden herbarium. Specimens labeled *Agoseris scorzoneraefolia* with maculated phyllaries are however rather common.



Cotype of *Agoseris apiculata* Greene.



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