THE CANADIAN BOTANICAL ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

DE L'ASSOCIATION BOTANIQUE DU CANADA

November / novembre 2001 34(4) Montréal

Patron / Président d'honneur
Her Excellency the Right Honourable / Son excellence la très honorable
Adrienne Clarkson, C.C., C.M.M., C.D.
Governor General of Canada / Gouverneure générale du Canada

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2002 CBA ANNUAL MEETING MADISON, WISCONSIN, AUGUST 2-7

CONGRÈS ANNUEL DE L'ABC 2002 MADISON, WISCONSIN, 2-7 AOÛT

SEE INSIDE (LOOSE SHEETS) FOR MORE INFORMATION

VOIR À L'INTÉRIEUR POUR PLUS D'INFORMATION (FEUILLES VOLANTES)

Next summer CBA/ABC will be meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, August 2-7. The Botanical Society of America, the Phycological Society of America, the American Fern Society, and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists will hold their meetings with us. As you see by the accompanying call for Abstracts, the theme will be "Botany in the Curriculum: Integrating Research and Teaching". There are two related parts to the meeting; the Education and Outreach Forum, and the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Friday evening and Saturday will be devoted to the Forum, and several sessions will be organized in a number of ways. Read the "**Call for Sessions**" carefully, to get a feel for the themes, and consider strongly submitting something to this portion of the meetings. Considering how Canadian students outperformed their American cousins on the recent OECD tests for scientific literacy, we must be doing something right. Christine Maxwell and I have been part of the planning committee for this part of the meeting from the beginning, and have had lots of opportunity for input. Sunday, August 4 is the "bridging day", and we've planned workshops that are related to teaching, but which will be of general interest.

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Information for submitting texts / Soumission des textes

Texts and illustrations for the Bulletin must be sent to the Editor preferably via the electronic mail (attached file) or on a diskette. Texts should be saved under "Word" and illustrations under the "TIFF" format.
If you have any question about text submission please contact the Editor.

Les textes et les illustrations pour le bulletin doivent de préférence être envoyés par courrier électronique (sous forme de fichier attaché) ou encore sur une disquette.
Les textes doivent être enregistrés sous « Word » et les illustrations sous le format « TIFF ».
N'hésitez pas à contacter le rédacteur pour toute information sur l'envoi de documents.

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CBA Bulletin / Bulletin de l'ABC

The CBA Bulletin is issued quarterly (February, May, August, November) and sent to all CBA members.
Le Bulletin de l'ABC paraît quatre fois par année (février, mai, août, novembre) et est envoyé à tous les membres de l'ABC.

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To ensure continuous delivery of the Bulletin please notify the Treasurer promptly of any change of address.
Veuillez communiquer tout changement d'adresse au trésorier afin de recevoir tous les numéros du bulletin.

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If you have any comments or suggetions about the Bulletin, please contact the Editor at the above address.
Si vous avez des commentaires ou suggestions concernant le bulletin, veuillez s'il vous plaît contacter le rédacteur à l'adresse mentionnée plus haut.

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Texts for the February issue must be received before January 31, 2002. Les textes pour le bulletin de février doivent arriver au plus tard le 31 janvier 2002.

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Vice-President's message

Continued from page 41

The Annual Scientific Meeting begins on Sunday evening, and will end on Wednesday August 7, after the joint banquet (except for Executive business meetings). The enclosed "**Call for Abstracts**" explains how to submit abstracts for these sessions. I have already arranged that students who will be competing for the Lionel Cinq-Mars Award and the Iain and Sylvia Taylor Poster Award will be able to signify their intentions when they submit their abstract. The session rooms will all be Power Point ready, and the Head Technician assures us that a mere seven minutes is all that's required to fix anything (i.e. bring backups). You will notice that there is also a Call for "Discussion Sessions", which you should also read carefully. These have been part of the BSA programme for three years, now, and have been a very popular vehicle for re-introducing the opportunity for delegates to interact outside the formal settings.

Submission of items for the Forum and the Annual Scientific Meeting is via the BSA website <http://www.botany2002.org/>, which is linked to our website, and should be up by the time you get this Bulletin. The deadline for the scientific abstracts is April 1, 2002 (no joke), but the deadline for the Forum sessions is March 15, 2002. All CBA members will receive a meeting registration package in the mail in February, although electronic registration will also be possible.

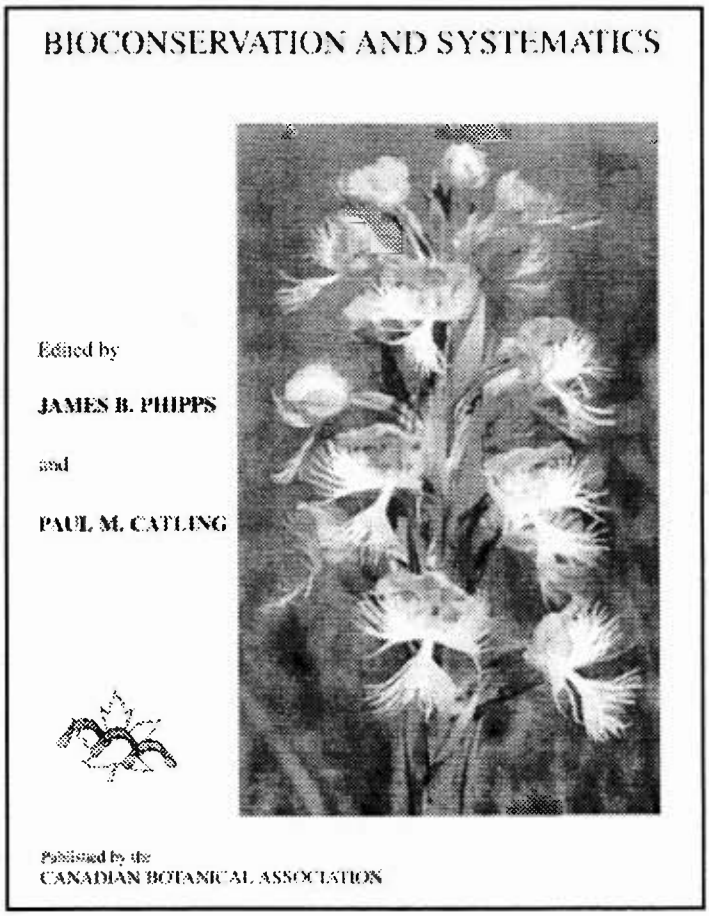
As we know, social activities are important to the success of any meeting. I've tentatively scheduled a CBA luncheon on Tuesday (Tuesday afternoon will be the poster session), and at that time we could make some of our student awards. It may be more meaningful to do it this way, than to get lost in the main banquet. As those of you who have attended BSA meetings know, the incoming President must give a talk of scientific import. So, there will be a banquet speech. We plan to have a local band and open bar in a German-beergarten-style room that opens onto the terrace overlooking the lake just above the proposed banquet room for the after-banquet festivities.

I know that many CBA/ABC members are concerned about the likely cost of the meetings, given the dollar difference. I can only say that the organizing committee is trying to keep the costs as low as possible, while providing a high quality meeting. It's always hard to retain our own identity amongst so many Americans, but AIBS is no longer involved in planning the meetings and my sense is that our own needs and interests are being noted and acted upon this year.

If you want more information, or have questions, feel free to contact me.

Jean Gerrath, Vice-President, *gerrath@faculty.cns.uni.edu*

Book Release



PROCEEDINGS NOW AVAILABLE

To obtain a copy of the CBA/ABC symposium volume entitled "Bioconservation and Systematics", please send a cheque to the address below made out to the Canadian Botanical Association in the amount of $ 23.00 CAN (residents of Canada), $ 17.00 US (residents of the United States) or $ 33.00 CAN/ $ 21 US (residents outside Canada and the United States depending on whether remittance is received in Canadian or US funds). Prices include shipping and handling.

Send cheque to:

Mel Fisher
Box 160
407 Main Street
Aberdeen, Saskatchewan S0K 0A0
CANADA

Copies may be obtained at the sales desk during the 2002 Annual CBA/ABC Meeting at Madison, Wisconsin for $ 10.00 US or $15.00 CAN (while supplies last).

Poorly Known Economic Plants of Canada-31. Honewort, *Cryptotaenia canadensis* (L.) DC.

E. Small and P.M. Catling, Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre, Research Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saunders Bldg., Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa ON K1A 0C6

The subject of this article is honewort, a succulent wild edible herb that looks like parsley and smells like celery.

Latin Names

The genus name *Crypotaenia* comes from the Greek *cryptos*, hidden, and *taenia*, a fillet, referring to concealed oil tubes in the fruits.

English Names

Honewort, stone parsley, wild chervil, white chervil (the true chervil is *Anthriscus cerefolium* (L.) Hoffm.). The name "honewort" meaning "hone plant" is applied to several unrelated species of the carrot family, particularly the European stone parsley, *Sison amomum* L., which was used to cure swellings called hones.

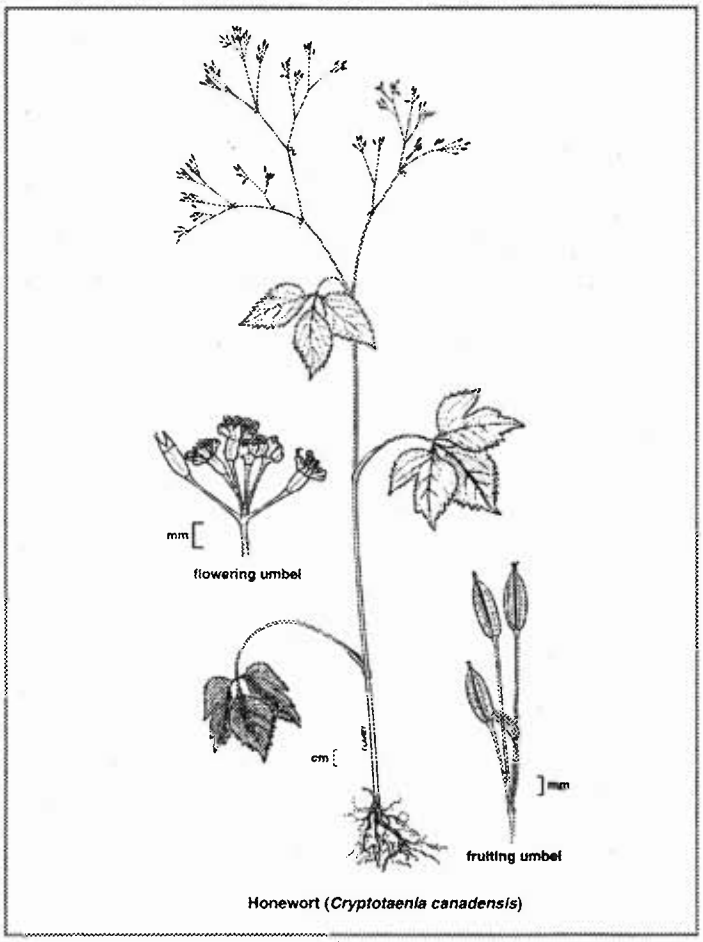
Mitsuba or Japanese honewort is the Japanese name of the Asian relative of honewort, as discussed below. "Mitsuba" is Japanese for three leaflets, a reference to the fact that the leaves are most frequently split into three leaflets.

French Names

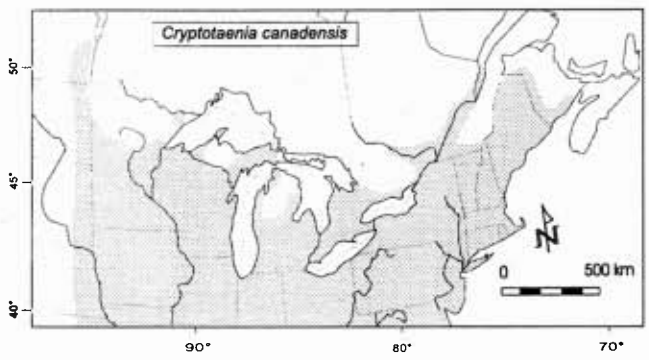
Cryptoténie du Canada, cerfeuil sauvage.

Morphology

Honewort is a perennial, glabrous herb, 30-100 cm tall in flower and fruit. The leaves typically have three, sometimes five leaflets, which are sharply double-toothed, occasionally lobed. The plant bears inconspicuous white flowers in small umbels (with 1-7 very unequal rays). The petals are minute (approximately 1 mm long), and strikingly turned inward, and the stamens protrude slightly beyond them. The fruits are often curved and 4-6 mm long.



Honewort (*Cryptotaenia canadensis*)



Classification and Geography

The genus *Cryptotaenia* (Apiaceae or Umbelliferae) is native to African mountains and north temperate Eurasia and eastern North America. There are about five species of annual and perennial herbs in this group. *Cryptotaenia canadensis*, the only species of the genus native to North America, is very closely related to *C. japonica* (*C. canadensis* DC. var. *japonica* (Hassk.) Makino) of southeastern Asia, and indeed is often considered to be identical to it. The North American honewort differs from the Japanese mitsuba in usually having only one involucral bract (instead of 2-5), in usually having 4-10 flowers in the ultimate umbels (instead of 2-5), and in having a more open and spreading inflorescence with pedicels more similar in length (instead of ascending and unequal). Honewort occurs in eastern North America, from western New Brunswick to Manitoba, south to Florida ("endangered"), Mississippi (very rare), Alabama, Arkansas and Texas.

Ecology

Honewort occurs in woods, thickets, and woodland margins, and on the banks of streams. It is a plant of moist forests and floodplains, growing best in rich, moist soils, and preferring dappled shade. Seeds germinate and plants emerge in early spring. Flowering occurs in early summer, and the seeds (mericarps) ripen by the fall. The seeds are smooth. Although not obviously distributed by attachment to fur, the seeds could be dispersed by adhesion to animals, especially to wet fur. Recent studies have shown that honewort populations are more reproductively isolated than other woodland members of the carrot family. This seems to be the result of less efficient seed dispersal, due to lack of hooks or hairs on the seeds. The plants are self-fertile, and are also cross-pollinated by various small, generalist pollinators. The flowering shoots are monocarpic (i.e. they die after flowering and fruiting), but plants that have not flowered or offsets (usually produced singly on flowering plants) overwinter. The seeds have underdeveloped embryos and require cold stratification to come out of dormancy, and light is required for good germination.

Use as Food

In the late spring and early summer, while it is still young and tender, wild plants are collected for use as food. Much like mitsuba, its Japanese counterpart, honewort is used for soup, as a potherb, in salads, as a root vegetable, and as a seasoning.



Mitsuba (*Cryptotaenia japonica*) in fruit.

Young leaves, stems, and flowers can be boiled for use as a potherb, or chopped like parsley for addition to salads and green soups. The roots are scrubbed, boiled in salted water for 20 minutes, and served like parsnips with butter or sauce. The seeds can be used to flavor cookies, biscuits, cakes and breads. The stems can be candied in sugar. The Japanese honewort (mitsuba) is grown particularly for its long, slender, hollow leaf-stalks, and for its leaf blades. The chief edible portion of the North American honewort is also the foliage. The very distinct, pungent flavor is reminiscent of celery, but has been described as a blend of parsley, celery, and angelica, or somewhat between celery and sorrel.

Chemistry

The essential oil of mitsuba has been found to be dominated by several sesquiterpene constituents, including cuparene, alpha- and beta-selineine, and eremophilene. Whether there are differences in chemistry of the closely related honewort remains to be determined. Mitsuba foliage contains vitamins B and C, and the leaves contain over 2% protein, over 4% carbohydrate, and about 0.23% fat.

Toxicity

Honewort is not considered to be toxic.

Non-Food Uses

The Asian mitsuba, is an important and widely employed medicinal herb in China, used to treat colds, diarrhea, rheumatism, painful menstruation, and certain glandular conditions. Use of the similar North American honewort among the Indigenous People of North America does not seem to have been recorded.

Agricultural and Commercial Aspects

Honewort is rarely cultivated at present, although growers in the US have exported crops of this species as a culinary herb to Japan. The Japanese counterpart of honewort, mitsuba, is cultivated in Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and Indonesia, and it is a well known culinary herb in these countries. Mitsuba will often be found in Chinese and Japanese markets in North America, and is grown commercially for the Oriental market in plastic houses near Los Angeles. In Japan, over 10 t/ha of mitsuba have been produced outdoors, and over 25 t/ha under glass, suggesting that similar productivity is possible for honewort. Japan significantly increased production to over 17,000 tonnes during the last few decades, through the use of hydroponics. Although *C. canadensis* is normally a perennial, flowering in the second year or later, it can be grown commercially as an annual, since the young vegetative plant is most tender and desirable.

Cultivars & Germplasm

There are several cultivars of mitsuba, but no cultivars have been selected from its Canadian counterpart, honewort. The native occurrences of honewort on a now fragmented landscape constitute a natural gene bank. The species is rare to extremely

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rare on the periphery of its distribution. Some of these peripheral populations should be conserved in view of the potential of the species as a new edible crop. Because honewort populations are small, isolated, and genetically distinct, adequate conservation requires preservation or protection of a relatively large number of sites.

Prospects

In the light of the success of its almost identical Asian counterpart mitsuba, a popular vegetable and condiment of Asia, the wild Canadian honewort has considerable potential to be developed as a new vegetable. The plant thrives in cool, shady conditions, and since mitsuba has proven to be an ideal subject for winter glasshouse cultivation, there is an excellent possibility that the same is true for honewort. It is easily cultivated, has an attractive and exotic flavor, and should be considered as a potential minor diversification crop for local markets in North America.

Myths, Legends, Tales, Folklore, and Interesting Facts

In addition to the North American *C. canadensis* and the Asian *C. japonica*, about 3 dozen other herbaceous genera of plants also exhibit the pattern of having one species in eastern North America and a very closely related species in eastern Asia. These plants are thought to be survivors of an ancestral deciduous forest that formed a continuous band around the northern hemisphere 15 to 20 million years ago.

According to a rather sexist mid-20th century Chinese reference book, honewort is very popular in China because of "its asserted power to make the female 'revert' to her husband." It is also thought "to increase their opportunities of bearing children."

On the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, a groundhog entered a greenhouse where several dozen edible species of herbs were being grown. The discriminating little connoisseur ate all of the plants of honewort down to their roots, while merely nibbling on the other herbs.

Acknowledgments: Review: W.J. Cody. Artwork: B. Brookes, B. Flahey, S. Rigby.

Sedges 2002

Bruce Ford (University of Manitoba), Tony Reznicek (University of Michigan), and Robert F. C. Naczi (Delaware State University) are organizing a conference on sedges to be held at Delaware State University.

International Conference on Uses, Diversity, and Systematics of Cyperaceae. A three-day conference on the uses, diversity, and systematics of the sedge family (Cyperaceae) is planned for 6-8 June 2002 at Delaware State University. The

Sedges 2002 (Continued)

sedges are a large, ecologically and economically important family found in many habitats and climates throughout the world.

This conference is hosted by the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium of DSU and sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The first day is devoted to programs by researchers on an array of subjects including systematics, weed ecology, horticulture, conservation, wetland restoration, and ethnobotany. On the second day, field trips to local areas will enable conference participants to see a variety of sedges, mostly members of the large and taxonomically complex genus Carex. Identification workshops, again primarily for Carex, will be held on the third day.

To be placed on the mailing list for future notices and registration, please send your name, address, and telephone number via e-mail to Robert Naczi : rnaczi@dsc.edu.

Robert F. C. Naczi, Curator, Claude E. Phillips Herbarium, Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Delaware State University

Book Reviews

The following publications have not yet been spoken for. If you are willing to review one of these books please contact the Editor at the address indicated at the beginning of the bulletin (page 42). On request, the book you wish to review will be sent to you.

Les publications suivantes n'ont pas encore été réclamées. Si vous voulez faire la critique d'un de ces ouvrages, veuillez contacter le rédacteur du bulletin à l'adresse indiquée à la page 42.

Seagrass Ecology : An Introduction
by M.A. Hemmings and C.M. Duarte
Cambridge University Press, 2000

Biological Thermodynamics
by D.T. Haynie
Cambridge University Press, 2001

The Ecology of Trees in the Tropical Rain Forest
by I.M. Turner
Cambridge University Press, 2001

A Dictionnary of Plant Pathology
by P. Holliday
Cambridge University Press, 2001

Spatial Patterns in Catchment Hydrology. Observation and Modeling
by R. Grayson and G. Bloschl
Cambridge University Press, 2001

Common and scientific names of weeds in Canada. Revised and enlarged. / Noms populaires et scientifiques des plantes nuisibles du Canada. Revu et augmenté

by S.J. Darbyshire, M. Favreau & M. Murray. 2000. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Research Branch. Ottawa. Publication 1397/B. 132 pp.

This new list of Canadian weeds is a revision and expansion of the 1969 "Common and Botanical Names of Weeds in Canada" published by the Canada Weed Subcommittee, and takes into account the lists published by the province of Québec ("Noms des mauvaises herbes du Québec", last published in 1975). The list is considerably expanded to include 1130 taxa. It includes the scientific name, following Kartesz (1994), English and French common names, as well as the Bayer Codes, used in several databases to reference economically important organisms.

One could argue endlessly about the proper scientific name to be applied to particular taxa. The authors chose to use mostly a single source, Kartesz (1994), controversial in some aspects but at least complete in coverage. One could argue that a more up-to-date taxonomy was available at the time the work was done, but the important point here is that nobody be misled by the taxonomy and scientific names used, not that the latest name be absolutely used. This will be the role of future databases, as such names change with the development of taxonomic knowledge. Also, as common names often raise passions among both professional botanists and users, the basis for selection and spelling of common names in both languages is explained in detail. The procedures used are both transparent and reasonable. In general, names of weeds in widespread use were retained.

More importantly is the definition used for weeds : any plant growing where it is not desired, in an agricultural context or elsewhere. Because of such a broad definition, a number of plants included in the list are not necessarily noxious, or even strongly harmful to crops, for instance. They may merely be "weeds" of fields or roadsides, or even of plantations. This considerably broadens the scope of the plants included and may account in large part for the increase in the number of weeds noted by the authors, particularly among the native taxa. Not all new weeds listed are recent introductions. Also, the fact that the authors included poisonous or toxic plants in the list must be underlined. These facts have repercussions that must be discussed.

For instance, all maples are listed as weeds in the list, I guess because they grow in fields that are left fallow in the normal succession of old fields. Some are true weeds, such as *Acer negundo* and *A. platanoides* in cities and parks. Others just fulfill their normal role in nature. Likewise, nearly all Canadian asters have been listed as weeds. Plants of successional habitats, which asters often are, therefore automatically appear to become weeds. Are all asters harmful, even when they appear where they were not formally invited, party crashers all? I do not beleive so (and not only because I study them). The most troubling case is the inclusion of *Ionactis (Aster) linariifolia* in the list. That species only occurs in Canada in the Trois-Rivières area of Quebec, where it is considered a rare species, in open sandy areas. Such areas occur occasionally within the town limits, and the species invades such fields readily. But it disappears as fast as soon as cover becomes dense, not a characteristic of weeds. Furthermore, its biology is such that it cannot be transplanted easily, and further, it grows in small clumps from a rootstock, not from extensive rhizomes. These are not factors of weediness. But what is most troubling to me is the fact that a rare species is included within a list of weeds, when it has never been reported as causing trouble, and what is worse, when people have attempted to protect it regionally. Let me provide a few more examples: also listed, most probably because they are toxic, are *Cypripedium reginae*, listed as rare in several provinces, and *Podophyllum peltatum*, a medicianally important herb. The question raised is this: how will we manage to protect such vulnerable species when they are very publicly listed on a weed list, furthermore called in French "plantes nuisibles" ? There is no symbol warning us of such distinctions within the list.

The use of the term "plantes nuisibles" instead of "mauvaises herbes" in the French title is also of concern, because such a strong term conveys with it the meaning of noxiousness in the mind of many. Not all plants listed are noxious. This was probably chosen because of the addition of poisonous taxa to the list, which do not fit well in the concept of " weed ". But a problem of perception about the plants listed is thus raised.

Overall, this is a very good piece of work. Doing such a list is a thankless task at best, doing a perfect one is nearly impossible. As all tools, however, the list will have to be used with caution. Indeed, listing of rare taxa as weeds in an official document of the federal government could have the effect of preventing or hampering conservation actions, particularly where development projects are involved. Future versions of this document will have to take that into consideration. The list will be useful to a large audience, and it is a welcome addition to our set of tools to control invasive species.

Luc Brouillet, Herbier Marie-Victorin, Institut de recherche en biologie végétale, Université de Montréal

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Future Annual Meetings / Prochains congrès annuels

August 2-7, 2002
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
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