

**Pine-Barren Golden-Heather (Cistaceae: *Hudsonia ericoides* L.): Range Extension and a New Woody Plant for Maryland**

WILLIAM S. SIPPLE

512 Red Bluff Court, Millersville, Maryland 21008

For a number of years now, I have been on the trail of a turn-of-the-century (1800-1900) botanist, Dr. Charles C. Plitt, who along with friends and students, regularly botanized a 400-square mile (1,000 km<sup>2</sup>) area around Baltimore (Fessenden 1954). My goal has been to relocate some of his many botanical finds in Anne Arundel County, which I have done with mixed success (Sipple 1993, 1999). My searches have centered principally on four rare vascular plants—the swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*), climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*), dwarf iris (*Iris verna*), and wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*). Although I have located all four of these species, in some instances it is difficult to determine whether Dr. Plitt and his followers were at the exact same site.

On May 24, 2000, while searching for the wild lupine and dwarf iris along a number of dirt roads, roadsides, and open rights-of-way in Anne Arundel County, I made a significant discovery along a Baltimore Gas & Electric Company's transmission line right-of-way off Marley Station Boulevard. I found a new woody vascular plant for Maryland, the pine-barren golden-heather (*Hudsonia ericoides* L.) in the Rock Rose Family (Cistaceae). At the time, I located just one clump, since I had to leave the site due to an approaching thunderstorm. I returned to the site, however, on June 3 to conduct a more extensive search for the heather, only to find that the site had been mowed (since my first visit). My initial thoughts were that the heather clump had been destroyed. As I indicate below, mowing to manage vegetation is very important in keeping such sites open, and in this instance the mowing did not affect the heather, given its low stature. I relocated the original clump and found additional aggregations of eleven, two, and fifteen plants as I progressed further north-northwest along a 230-foot stretch of the right-of-way.

On my second visit to the site, I listed the following vascular plants within a 10-foot radius of the first clump I had found: blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), matting rosette grass (*Dichanthelium meridionale*), frostwort (*Helianthemum* sp.), broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*), creeping bush-clover (*Lespedeza repens*), a tall hairy bush clover (*Lespedeza* sp.), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), white thoroughwort (*Eupatorium album*), dwarf dandelion (*Krigia virginica*), horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), poverty wild oat grass (*Danthonia spicata*), forked rush (*Juncus dichotomus*), and wavy hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*).

At another clump further down the right-of-way, I found the following species within a 5-foot radius: matting rosette grass (*Dichanthelium meridionale*), broom panic grass (*D. scoparium*), glaucous greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*), sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), old-field toadflax (*Linaria canadensis*), frostwort (*Helianthemum* sp.),