

A NEW STATION FOR CLITORIA MARIANA

O. M. CLARK, Bristow

On July 17, 1938 I noticed many specimens of *Clitoria mariana* L. growing about the public campground of the Chiricahua National Monument. I made mention of this to custodian Frank Fish who mentioned it in his report of my visitation to the Monument¹. The following summer I was commissioned by the National Park Service to collect and determine the flora of that area. I was there from June 17 to Sept. 1, 1939, and had ample occasions to make several collections of the species referred to above.

The Chiricahua National Monument is situated in the northwest part of the Chiricahua Mountains, in southeastern Arizona, at an elevation of 5,000 to over 7,000 feet. Along the sandy, oak-wooded canyon bottoms of the four main streams that drain the Monument area this plant grows quite abundantly up to an elevation of about 5,800 feet. Being amazed at these unusual stations for a common eastern plant I set about to check its distribution.

Clitoria mariana L. is the only representative of a genus of about thirty species found native in the United States. It ranges in the dry sandy situations from New York westward through Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Oklahoma to east Texas and southward to Florida and the Gulf States. It has been collected in McCurtain, Le Flore, Latimer, McIntosh, Tulsa, Creek, Payne, Lincoln, Pottawatomie, Murray and Cleveland Counties of Oklahoma.² Its most westward station previously known, so far as I can ascertain, is west of Norman in Cleveland county³. There is no record of its occurrence in New Mexico⁴ and Dean Thornber of the University of Arizona has no record of it from that state⁵.

Specimens from the Chiricahua stations have been placed in the herbaria at the headquarters of the Monument and the University of Arizona and in the author's own private herbarium, and I have made mention of its discovery in my report to the Park Service on Aug. 31, 1939.

The reasons for these isolated stations are not clear. The whole of the Chiricahua Mountains has been termed a biological island, and the many plants, native to both east and west, that occur there are said to be stranded species of a past age when the arid and semiarid regions on either side were nonexistent. That explanation is not wholly satisfactory for, if that were the cause, why does *Clitoria mariana* L. not occur in similar situations in the 1,000 miles which lie between its most westerly station in Cleveland County, Oklahoma and these stations in the Chiricahuas? Of course we have the often accepted reason that it has been transplanted there by man or migratory birds, but this does not seem plausible because of the very nature of the species and its type of seed. I suspect it to occur in the other canyons of the Chiricahua Mountains and I hope to find such stations there and perhaps in the neighboring mountains of southwest New Mexico during the coming summer.

REFERENCES

- ¹ Fish, Frank L. Southwestern Monuments monthly reports, July, 1938.
- ² Stratton, Robert. Correspondence, November, 1939.
- ³ Hopkins, Milton. Correspondence, November, 1939.
- ⁴ Hershey, A. L. State College, New Mexico. Correspondence, October, 1939.
- ⁵ Benson, Layman. University of Arizona. Correspondence, October, 1939.
Thornber, J. J. College of Agriculture, Correspondence, October, 1939.