

## CALOPOGON PULCHELLUS AND ITS HABITAT IN OKLAHOMA

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On May 8, 1938, the author made a collection of *Calopogon* about one mile north west of Panama, LeFlore county, Oklahoma. As far as the author has been able to ascertain this is the second time a member of this genus of the family Orchidaceae has been collected in the state.

On May 12, 1934, Beulah McInturff collected it on the wet prairies north of Panama. (1) This collection was the first to be made in the state. The place where it was collected by the author may be considered as an extension of the northern limit of the same station in which the discovery of 1934 was made. A more extended search by the author to the northwest was not rewarded by the finding of other specimens. A collection of fourteen specimens was made and they are now in the Herbarium of the University of Oklahoma and in the author's private Herbarium.

Our species varies some from those collected in the eastern states. It has a smaller and lighter colored flower and the single leaf is broader and longer, reaching or extending beyond the inflorescence. It was determined as *Calopogon pulchellus*, R. Br. and confirmed by Dr. Milton Hopkins of the University of Oklahoma. However, after the two of us compared it with the few eastern specimens at hand, we were doubtful as to the correctness of that determination and several specimens were sent to the Gray Herbarium. B. G. Schubert and Prof. M. L. Fernald, after comparing it with a series of specimens, concluded it to be a small-flowered form of *C. pulchellus*, R. Br. (3)

The species range extends from Newfoundland to Florida and westward to Minnesota and Missouri. The discovery in LeFlore county, no doubt, represents an isolated station which marks the westward extension of its range, and indicates the possibility of a more westward extension in the recent past when climatic conditions were more humid.

The prairies in this part of the state are often a series of little mounds and depressions. In the spring and during wet seasons these depressions are very wet and often become almost bogs. This plant grows, quite sparingly, on the north and west slopes about half way up on the side of some of these mounds, but never in the low wet depressions, as is its usual habitat in the eastern and northern part of its range. At the base of these small mounds, *Drosera annua* (2) grows very sparingly, together with a few species of *Carex*, *Oenothera* and several grasses. Higher on the mounds *Castilleja*, *Baptisia* and several grasses were noted. The author believes that an extended search in similar prairie regions will reveal still other stations and that an ecological study of its habitat will prove interesting and enlightening.

### References:

- (1) Hopkins, Milton. Correspondence.
- (2) Clark, Ora M. New Discoveries within the state extend the range of *Drosera* and *Cypripedium*. Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, 1936.
- (3) Fernald, L. M. Correspondence.