

PRENANTHES MAINENSIS:

NOTES ON THE MORPHOLOGY, TAXONOMY AND DISTRIBUTION
OF THIS HYBRID FORM.

By BRO. M. VICTORIN, Longueuil College, Longueuil, Que.

Up to the present time very little attention has been devoted in this country to the study of natural hybrids. The subject, however, is of the utmost importance, not only to students of Mendelism, but also to the average systematist. "In fact," says De Vries, "the majority of authors agree that systematic and sexual affinity are essentially parallel, as they are really no more than two manifestations of one and the same thing; but we have not yet succeeded in explaining the apparent exceptions to this parallel." (*) If some light is ever to be thrown on the subject, it will doubtless be through observations on natural hybrids, in widely separated groups of the plant kingdom.

We have in a previous paper (†) studied quite extensively a cross of two distant species of *Lysimachia*: *L. terrestris* (L.) B.S.P. x *L. thyrsoflora* L., and hinted that the recently proposed genus *Naumburgia*, created to account for *L. thyrsoflora*, was not founded in nature, since the plant hybridizes freely with other *Lysimachia* species. The writer knows such hybrid to occur constantly in Chateauguy, Que., and Professor M. L. Fernald, of the Gray Herbarium, states that he has collected it in Maine, and also in Prince Edward Island.

The present paper will deal with another interesting hybrid in the genus *Prenanthes* (Compositæ), which is of rare occurrence and has never received close study.

In a detailed botanical survey conducted during the summers of 1913 and 1914 along the coastal portion of the county of Temiscouata, Que., our attention was called to various forms of *Prenanthes* growing intermingled in a salt marsh at Anse à Persi, near Rivière-du-Loup. Specimens were collected and a preliminary study showed the bulk of the crop to be typical

*Hugo de Vries, "Mutation Theory," II., 593-599 (English translation).

†Fr. Marie Victorin, "Notes sur Deux Cas d'Hybridisme Naturel," Nat. Can. XXXIX., 177-189.