

atives, — including the species on which the genus was founded by Jussieu, — occupy the corresponding part of the South American continent; but the genus appears to be entirely absent from the intervening country. None of the species are truly alpine, though several of them reach up to considerable altitudes in the higher mountains; nevertheless the indication is that the former distribution of the genus was continuous along the backbone of both North and South America. Plants of this distribution are often represented also across the North American continent in high latitudes, and not infrequently they occur likewise in Europe, where they enjoy a similar arctic-alpine distribution. In the present case, however, the prototype of the genus appears to be of rather recent differentiation from *Oenothera*, which is of wide American distribution (one species, Tasmanian, according to Bentham and Hooker), of which genus it represents an accentuated mountain type.

The principal revisions of our species appear in Torrey & Gray, Fl. N. A. i. 512; Watson, Bot. Calif. i. 221; Coulter, Man. Rocky Mt. Bot. 103; and Greene, Flora Franciscana, 218. For other references see Watson, Bibl. Index, 370.

## SYNOPSIS.

- \* Seeds canescent with appressed hairs.  
Flowers small, the petals about 1 mm. long..... *G. lastospermum*.  
Flowers large, the petals 3 to 6 mm. long..... *G. eriospermum*.
- \*\* Seeds glabrous, either smooth or low papillate.
- + Much forked above, mostly remotely leafy: stigma rather small: pedicels filiform, elongated: capsules subclavate, mostly torulose: seeds rather few, suberect, large, mostly dark colored.  
Large flowered, the petals 3 to 6 mm. long: seeds about 1.5 mm. long..... *G. diffusum*.  
Small flowered, the petals 1 to 2 mm. long: seeds 1 to 1.5 mm. long..... *G. ramosissimum*.
- + + Subsimple or paniculately branched, especially toward the base, densely leafy: stigma large, capitate: pedicels short or almost wanting: capsules neither clavate nor conspicuously torulose: seeds numerous, small, pale.  
Capsules narrowly linear, with suberect seeds..... *G. caestum*.  
Capsules broadly oblong, flattened contrary to the septum, with very oblique seeds..... *G. pumilum*.