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A NOTE ON THE QUILEUTE ENTRIES OF "ETHNOBOTANY OF W. WASHINGTON"

by J. V. Powell and Fred Woodruff

It has been 25 years since Erna Gunther's "Ethnobotany of Western Washinton" appeared in print (as Vol. X, No. 1 of University of Washington Publications in Anthropology). Since that time it has undergone five reprintings, the last of which appeared recently. In that there is continued interest in this monograph, it seems justified to make available corrections for the Quileute terms included in this valuable study. In that way the data will be available both to interested scholars and to the editors, in case of a further reprinting.

Quileute names were provided by Dr. Gunther for 64 species of flora common to the Olympic littoral. These have been checked with Mr. Fred Woodruff of Ia Push, and the following corrections are submitted for the Quileute entries. The names of these plants were well-known to Mr. Woodruff, but the preparation and uses of few of them is remembered by any of the living Quileutes. Therefore, the author¹ will confine the discussion to the actual Quileute names.

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Sword Fern (p. 13)

pilápila, general term for all ferns; pilápilapat, fern plants²;
ts'ik^wi, fern roots; (the "name" ts'át t'óts'a means 'new growth'
and can be applied to any growing thing).

Lady Fern (p. 14)

ts'ik^wi, fern roots (general for all ferns).

Maidenhair Fern (p. 14)

pilápila, fern (the form quoted from Reagan includes the demonstrative).

Brake Fern (p. 14)

q'aq^wa?ápat.

Deer Fern (p. 15)

lak^wa?á, 'to wipe (the name lak^wacici^oq^wol is not recalled by the informant).

Common Scouring Rush (p. 15)

silatc'ípat, 'plant that makes a rasping noise.'

Giant Horsetail (p. 15)

t'ot'ó.tsi; ts'í'xak, bulblike roots of giant horsetail.

Western Yew (p. 16)

xi.yá.

Sitka Spruce (p. 17)

yák^sa.

²The Quileute lexical suffix -yat, meaning 'tree, bush, plant,' could be attached to nearly all of the plants, berries, fruit or trees listed herein. For that reason, we are not listing such forms unless the plant is generally referred to with the suffixial form.

Hemlock (p. 17)

tí·la.

Douglas Fir (p. 19)

tl'íxits.

Western Red Cedar (p. 19)

ts'á·pis; ts'apístc'it, thick, outside bark; sik^wíó·ya, soft, inside bark.

Cat-tail (p. 21)

síts'ay.

Surf-grass (p. 21)

xá'k', 'it's hard.'

Rye-grass (p. 21)

k'ák'ipat, 'strong plant.' The braided root bundles used for rubbing the body are x^wats'á·tí.

Skunk Cabbage (p. 22)

t'ó·q^wa; t'ó·q^wa[?]aq'í·ts'a, seeds or berries of skunk cabbage;
t'ó·q^wats'á[?]boq^wí, skunk cabbage roots.

Camas (p. 24)

k^wá·la.

Tiger Lily (p. 25)

(?); the common water lily is pispilákstc'iyil, 'liver-shaped leaves.'

Twisted Stalk (p. 25)

yæ[?]iwapat, 'snake plant.'

Wild Lily-of-the-Valley (p. 25)

ts'í[?]ats'ípat, 'sour plant.'

Trillium (p. 25)

k^wok^wòtstadaktc'iyíł, 'thieves' leaves.'

Cottonwood (p. 26)

k^wo?doq^w.

Willow (p. 26)

łilá·q'a.

Nettle (p. 27)

padá·k^woq^wol.

Spring Beauty, Miner's Lettuce (p. 29)

p'ip'itc'its'í·p, 'red things next to the ground.'

Anemone (p. 29)

t'a?ó·l, is a sea anemone. No word is known for a plant by that name;
see also Buttercup, p. 29.

Columbine (p. 30)

p'itc'abíxa?a°, 'red flowers;' the informant feels that this is not a
name, but a comment.

Saxifrage (p. 31)

wawox^wtc'iyíła, 'having fuzzy hairs on its leaves.'

q^wa?latc'iyíła, 'three leaves.'

Skunk Currant, Wild Currant (p. 32)

tl'íló·?o.

Goats' Beard (p. 33)

tl'íłi·liḡ.

Wild Rose (p. 34)

tl'íq^way.

Thimbleberry (p. 34)

t'aq'á·tcil.

Salmonberry (p. 35)

tc'a?álwa; yatctc'íł?at, salmonberry shoots; tc'á?alwa tł'o?ó·tc'iyil,
salmonberry leaves.

Blackberry, Dewberry (p. 35)

badá?abix^w; the name cicipq'í·ts'a, 'black berries,' is now often used.

Wild Strawberry (p. 36)

t'obí·ya, 'pick them up.'

Silverweed (p. 37)

tł'itł'í·cit; also, la?it'ay, 'gathering hands.'

Yellow Avens (p. 37)

k^wóloq^wol, probably the same as baneberry, p. 30; hat'alito'iyil,
hair seal leaves.

Crab Apple (p. 38)

siyoyók'idax, 'hurts the tongue.'

Giant Vetch (p. 39)

babidaq^wópat, 'string bean plant.'

Wood Sorel (p. 39)

(?) These names are no longer remembered.

Vine Maple (p. 40)

t'apsiyóq^wpat, roots; laláq^wts'íl.

Broad Leaf Maple (p. 39)

la?á·xal.

Cascara (p. 40)

?akílipat, 'bear plant.'

Cow Parsnip (p. 42)

tł'ó.pit. The basket woven of cow parsnip stems is tł'ó.pítbay.

False Huckleberry (p. 43)

ticoq^wótłipat, 'bottom grass plant.'

Salal (p. 43)

k^wo?ó.d.

Red Huckleberry (p. 44)

tłó?ot.

Fern Mint (p. 45)

tł'otł'opabíxa?a°, "they are blue flowers;" possibly this is not a name but a comment.

Hedge Nettle, Woundwort (p. 45)

sisí-bal.

Indian Paintbrush (p. 46)

p'itc'ibíxa?a°.

Bedstraw (p. 46)

tł'apá?pat, 'bed plant.'

Red Elderberry (p. 47)

ts'ibá°; ts'iwók^w is a loanword into Quileute.

Swamp Honeysuckle, Twinberry (p. 48)

ká?ayo?pat, "crow plant."

Pearly Everlasting and Yarrow (pp. 48-9)

sisí?bálwa.

Ox-eye Daisy (p. 49)

q'aba**l**bíxa?a:, 'white flower.'

Common Coltsfoot (p. 49)

q^w'ayí**x**pat.

Rockweed, Bladderwrack (p. 50)

x^wopík'ísts'a, 'little kelp.'

Kelp (p. 50)

x^wopík'is.

Moss (p. 50)

q^w'ayocí, underwater moss; t'owa°?as, tree moss.

It may be a matter of interest to include those botanical terms extant for the other Chimakuan language, Chimakum (Chemacum). These forms have been taken from notes by Franz Boas, made available to the author by the Library of the American Philosophical Society.

Blackberry: to°?otx^woq^w'a; q'i°ts'a, berry (general).

Cedarbark: so°k^w'om

Grass: tl'°o°?ob; lapitsa.

Nettle: tl'alap, tl'alilap (pl.).

Pine: qax^wotc'a.

Raspberry: xatc'it'ida?a (prob. hate'it'ida?a), 'good tasting (?).'

Salmonberry: ?ali°lo°; tsiyi°lapat, salmonberry bush.