

A NOTE ON SKOKOMISH PLANT NAMES

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Since its initial printing in 1945, Erna Gunther's "Ethnobotany of Western Washington" has been the leading source of information on that subject. Skokomish entries however are comparatively few, numbering 22 for the 157 plants discussed. It is the intent of this paper to present a list of corresponding Skokomish plant names. Page numbers refer to botanic entries in Gunther's work.

1. Licorice Fern (p. 13)

s^həwi'ləq^w

2. Sword Fern (p. 13)

cala'say

branch?

3. Brake Fern (p. 14)

sa?a'qay

sa?ə'q, the root

4. Common Scouring Rush (p. 15)

sxələ'k, in the sprout stage

x^wi'q^wtəd, in the mature stage

scrub?

The latter term refers to its use
as a scrubber.

5. Giant Horsetail (p. 15)

XəbXa'bay

XəbXa'b, the edible root tuber

6. Western Yew (p. 16)

λ'əbə'qay

7. Western White Pine and Lodgepole Pine (p. 16-17)

təq^wtə'q^wlə?oy

8. Sitka Spruce (p. 17)

sqa'b'ay

The name translates as "calm tree"
and is a comment on its relative
lack of movement in the wind.

9. Western Hemlock (p. 17)

su'sq^wpi

10. White Fir (p. 19)

ləka'ci

11. Douglas Fir (p. 19)

čə'qpi

12. Western Red Cedar (p. 19)

q^we'li

13. Broadleaved Cattail (p. 21)

suwəla'lqut

This refers to the spread out
nature of the leaves. Compare with
aswə'l, "it's not folded."

14. Rye Grass (p. 21)

də'cay

'cut'?

15. Skunk Cabbage (p. 22)

cu'k^way

16. Beargrass (p. 23)

Xəla'lšId

The name refers to its usage in basketry. Compare with Xəlu'lač, "basket design."

17. Camas (p. 24)

qa'wUb

18. Tiger Lily (p. 25)

basi'łci

19. Trillium (p. 25)

dux^wλa'a'yIsəbəd tətə'bix^w

This translates as "eye of the earth" and refers to its use as a temporary eye by Coyote while searching for his own eyes. Compare with Gunther's term for Pacific Flowering Dogwood blossom in the Skagit dialect of Puget Salish which translates as "eye of coyote."

20. Cottonwood (p. 26)

X^wələ'pəli

21. Yellow Willow (S. lasiandra Benth. - p. 26)
²cIm²ca'max^wqsi
This refers to the little, pointed leaves.
22. Hazelnut (p. 26)
²qa²pu'x^way
²qa²pu'x^w, the nut (also the generic for "nut")
23. Alder (p. 27)
ləwa'qay
24. Oak (p. 27)
^vca?a'^vc (also the word for the nut)
25. Nettle (p. 28)
^λolo'q^way
^λolo'q^w, the fiber
26. Wild Ginger (p. 28)
x^wa'l^vcc^v±
27. Dock (p. 29)
²təbu'c
28. Low Bush Oregon Grape (p. 30)
²cu?yux^waysi
²cu?yu'x^wiIs, the berry 'saw'
29. High Bush Oregon Grape (p. 30)
suwi'sab^vsi
30. Mock Orange (p. 31)
ska'k^λi

31. Gooseberry (p. 32)
 t̥bə'x^way
 t̥əbə'x^w, the berry
32. Trailing Current (p. 32)
 pu'q̥^wi
33. Ironwood (R. Holodiscus discolor (Pursh.) Maxim. - p. 33)
 sə'q̥^wbi 'pre(' ? (NT)
34. Wild Rose (p. 34)
 yE'ʔyIstə
35. Thimbleberry (p. 34)
 slə'l̥qi
 slə'l̥aq, the berry
36. Salmonberry (p. 35)
 yIta'wdi
 yIta'wad, the berry
37. Blackcap (p. 35)
 bəcə'k^way
 bəcə'k^w, the berry
38. Wild Blackberry (p. 35)
 wədə'buwi
 wədə'bax^w, the berry (also generic for "berry")
39. Wild Strawberry (p. 36)
 t̥e'l̥Iq̥^we
 t̥e'l̥Iq̥^w, the berry
40. Silverweed (R. Potentilla gracilis Dougl. - p. 37)
 s̥^ʔl̥ko'sab

41. Wild Cherry (p. 37)

yIli?a'łpi

yIli?a'łp, the bark

The root of these forms, #yal, has the meaning TURN and the names refer to the fact that the bark is removed by cutting the bark and turning it up and around the tree.

42. Indian Plum (p. 37)

λ²a'x^wadi

43. Crabapple (p. 38)

scub?a'yay

scu'b², the fruit

44. Vetch (p. 39)

lipu'wə, the pea

45. Broadleaf Maple (p. 39)

ko'łwi

46. Vine Maple (p. 40)

tə'qtqe

47. Cascara (p. 40)

habi'bay, "pigeon tree"

The name refers to the fact that pigeons feed on the berries of this tree.

48. Soapberry (p. 41)

sX^wa'səm

A loanword from Klallam.

49. Fireweed (p. 41)

spu'qosay

50. Devil's Club (p. 41)

s^qbqe'pi

51. Flowering Dogwood (p. 42)

ka'p[?]ay

--- Labrador Tea (p. 43)

See #55 Cranberry.

52. Rhododendron (p. 43)

XoXo'bti, "paddle tree"

The name refers to the shape of
the leaves.

53. Salal (p. 43)

ta'qe

ta'qa?, the berry

The name may refer to the dryness
of the fruit. See ti'taq, "dried
blackberry cake."

or 'sweet'?

54. Madrona (p. 44)

ci'wXe

55. Kinnikinnick (p. 44)

skewa't

ske'waday, the fruit which is known as
"bearberry"

56. Blue Huckleberry (p. 44)

ya'yyaXbi

ya'yyəXəb, the fruit

57. Red Huckleberry (p. 44)

scx^{v v}wi'lsi

scx^{v v}wi'las, the berry

58. Cranberry (p. 45)

sʔəlxə'a'lsi, also Labrador Tea

sʔəlxə'ʔliis, the berry

The same situation exists in Sko-
komish as Gunther reported for
Klaḷlam and Makah; cranberry and
Labrador tea bushes receive the
same name as they are generally
found together.

59. Mint (p. 45)

qə'stkx^w

This word contains the suffix -kx^w
which denotes the sense of smell.

60. Red Elderberry (p. 47)

sʔəla'Xdi

sʔa'ixəd, the berry

61. Blue Elderberry (p. 47)

ciq^wi'q^way

ciq^wi'q^w

62. Snowberry (p. 47)

q^wətq^wa'day

63. Swamp Honeysuckle (p. 48)

ka'kadilId, "crow food"

The berry is eaten by crows.

64. Sphagnum Moss (p. 50)

qecays tisp[?]lXa'd, "marsh moss"

Some additional plants not included in Gunther's work:

65. Arrowhead, Alismaceae Sagittaria latifolia Willd.

spiəqo'ʔoc

66. Seaside Arrowgrass, Juncaginaceae Triglochin
maritima L.

stuʔa'la

67. Pussywillow, Salicaceae Salix (species unknown)

qəli'cay

68. Rush, Juncaceae (genus unknown)

sIləwa'lkut

69. ~~Blue~~ Mountain Huckleberry, Ericaceae Vaccinium
membranaceum Dougl.

wəda'X, the berry

Probably a loanword from Sahaptin.

no ?

70. Spanish Moss

pu'x^wa^lq^we?

The name refers to its usage in starting or initiating lactation.

71. Sweetgrass

ka'qsx^w

72. Herring Grass

la'bə

73. Lilac, Rhamnaceae Ceanothus sp. (?)

sqa'q^wli

74. Mushroom

kəbə's

75. An unidentified type of flower. (red)

ha'ʔ^ʔcay

76. A berry bush found in the prairies.

q^{ʔw}əla'stab, the berry

77. Foamflower (?)

sq^waha'^vc

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Sources

Gunther, Erna 1945 Ethnobotany of Western Washington. University of Washington Publications in Anthropology, Volume X, Number 1.

Thompson, Nile m.s. An Extended Skokomish Ethnobotanic Dictionary.