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## THE FLORA OF LITTLE CHICKEN ISLAND.

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On the 22nd of last June, I paid a visit to the Hen and Chicken Islands which lie in Canadian waters beyond North Bass Island. After landing on the Hen Island there was time enough to visit only one of the three "Chickens" which accompany the "Hen." This was the one farthest south-east, known as Little Chicken Island, the other two being called Big Chicken and Chick Island.

Little Chicken Island is a nestling place for the common tern, and the higher part of the surface was covered with tern nests, a few of which contained young birds. The island is a rocky reef covered with coarse drift pebbles. The central part is simply a ridge of large, loose pebbles, without vegetation of any kind, and around this is a zone of herbs reaching to the water's edge, with a good-sized bunch of willows on one side, none of which are much over six inches in diameter.

I made a careful search for all the species of plants growing on the island, and since such a flora must be quite transient, it is here recorded. Aside from a few of the lower algae and fungi on the rocks and dead organic matter, *Marchantia polymorpha* and several mosses were the only lower forms present. Fifteen species of seed plants were determined, and there may have been several more species of *Polygonum*, but they were not mature enough for satisfactory determination. Following is the list of species:

- Echinochloa crus-galli (L.) Beauv.
- Agrostis alba L.
- Avena sativa L.
- Salix amygdaloides Andr.
- ✓ Ulmus americana L.
- Polygonum lapathifolium L.
- Polygonum persicaria L.
- Atriplex hastata L.
- Scutellaria lateriflora L.
- Lycopus americanus Muhl.
- Cephalanthus occidentalis L.
- Leptilon canadense (L.) Britt.
- Bidens frondosa L.
- Bidens connata Muhl.
- Carduus sp.

Of these the *Avena*, *Ulmus*, *Lycopus*, *Cephalanthus* and *Carduus* were leading a very precarious life. It will be seen from the list that there are only two plants which have barbed fruits. Four have adaptations for wind distribution and may have been carried in this way. The other nine have small seeds which may have floated over from neighboring islands or they may have been carried in the mud sticking to the feet and feathers of birds. An apple was found washed ashore, but there would be little chance for such a plant to gain a foothold on the island. It is probable that most of the seeds which arrive find it impossible to establish themselves, because of the limited amount of soil and other adverse conditions.