

NOTES ON CERTAIN OHIO OAKS¹

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Although the present study of the Ohio oaks is by no means complete, it is thought best to call attention to several features of the work at this time.

In the first place, certain corrections should be made in the nomenclature:

Quercus maxima (Marsh.) Ashe.—(*Q. rubra* L.)—Red Oak.

Quercus rubra L.—(*Q. tribola* Michx.)—Spanish Oak.

Quercus montana Willd.—(*Q. Prinus* L.)—Rock Chestnut Oak.

Quercus Prinus L.—(*Q. Michauxii* Nutt.)—Cow Oak.

Although the Cow Oak (*Q. Prinus*) is not certainly known to occur in Ohio it is here listed to indicate the disposition of that species. It is unfortunate that the above specific names, known so long and almost universally used, must be changed, but the shift is necessary to keep the nomenclature correct.

One of the problems in working with the oaks is the differentiation between certain species, and hybrids between other species or their aberrant forms. A case of this is a collection made by Dr. Kellerman in Gallia Co., in 1901, which he took for a hybrid (*Q. palustris* X *Q. velutina*). The present writer feels that this is not the case, rather, that it is an extremely aberrant form of the Scarlet Oak (*Q. coccinea* Muench.), although a careful examination of the specimen, together with Dr. Kellerman's field notes, seem to indicate that it is Hill's Oak (*Q. ellipsoidalis* E. J. Hill). This last species is not known farther east than northwestern Indiana.

Another case of this type is Schneck's Oak (*Q. Schneckii* Britt.). This species, typically southern in its distribution, but occurring fairly commonly along the Ohio River as far north as Indiana, is recorded for Ohio by Small (Man. S. E. Flora, 1933) and specifically for the Cincinnati area by Braun (Amer. Midland Nat., Vol. 15, p. 30, 1934). It is, however, represented in the O. S. U. Herbarium by only two collections, both of them from Franklin County. It is hoped that subsequent collecting in southern and southwestern Ohio will reveal intermediate stations, but until then it is doubtful if Schneck's Oak, in its true form, occurs in central Ohio.

Alexander's Oak (*Q. Alexanderi* Britt., Man. Fl. N. St. and Can., p. 336, 1901) has been recognized by Trelease as a form of the Chestnut or Yellow Oak (*Q. Muhlenbergii* f. *Alexanderi* Trel., Mem. Nat. Acad. Sci., Vol. 20, p. 111, 1924). Field studies in various areas where this species is common indicate that it has a definite genetic constitution and

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with its characteristic broadly obovate leaves should be considered a valid variety. The present writer therefore proposes the combination **Quercus Muhlenbergii** var. **Alexanderi**.

One of the most interesting features of the present work has been a special study of the Northern Red Oak—Gray Oak complex. If the Gray Oak (*Q. borealis* Michx. f.) is to be considered as separate from the Red Oak (*Q. maxima* (Marsh.) Ashe.) then it is not uncommon, being known from at least twelve counties, mainly within the eastern half of Ohio. It is, however, the opinion of the writer that the two are not distinct but only two extremes of the various possibilities within the genetic range of the species, in which case our ordinary Red Oak would return to the earlier name, *Q. borealis* var. *maxima* Sarg. A statistical study of the variations within this particular group will be considered in a later paper.
