

# Sarracenia

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Newsletter of the Wildflower Society of Newfoundland and  
Labrador.

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## Contents

Spring Indoor Schedule 2009 .....	32
President's Message.	
Carmel Conway.....	32
Yellow Floating Heart, Darwin, and Sarracenia by Henry Mann.....	32
Newfoundland Cinquefoils by Henry Mann.....	34
The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady by Edith Holden & The Edwardian Lady (The Story of Edith Holden) by Ina Taylor Reviewed by Carmel Conway.....	40
Index of Scientific Names for Volume 16.....	41



*Potentilla pulchella* (*P. ustacapensis*)

Henry Mann

## Spring Indoor Schedule 2009

MUN Botanical Garden at 7.30 p.m.

**February 4<sup>th</sup>** - Photographer, Karen Chappell, will delight us with her images:

*"The Beauty of the Four Seasons"*.

**March 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Annual Photography Competition Awards.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** - Todd Boland will share his images *"Flora and Fauna of Trinidad."*

**May 6<sup>th</sup>** - Dr. Wilf Nicholls will explain *"How the Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae-Snap Dragons) got all shook up."*

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### President's Message.

Carmel Conway

Hoping all members had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. As the evenings are getting longer we can begin to think about our upcoming field trips with some excitement.

On behalf of the members I would like to thank all our fall presenters. Thanks to Glenda Quinn for her pictorial journey. Glenda always presents her images in a totally fresh way. The photography of Helen Jones and Judy Blakeley continues to inspire. It was nice to see a full house at their presentation of the grasslands and Rocky Mountain Park. Coming up in April month we can look forward to voyaging with Todd Boland, our intrepid traveller, as we view the flora and fauna of Trinidad. The following month Dr. Wilf Nicholls will help us sort out

where all the figworts have gone. To begin our winter talks however we are especially excited to have guest speaker Karen Chappell. I was browsing the internet several years ago and was caught by the beauty of a particular image. John Maunder informed me that the image was by local photographer, Karen Chappell. Regularly I view an image from Karen's website that never fails to startle me for its beauty. Like many members I look forward to meeting Karen in person.

Finally, while we have established the time frame for our summer field trip (Avalon Peninsula -July 19th through July 24th) we have to finalize the itinerary. So please hold tight and we will get further details out as quickly as possible.

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## Yellow Floating Heart, Darwin, and Sarracenia

by Henry Mann

Wildflower Society members may recall an article in Sarracenia Volume 16 #1 detailing the discovery of *Nymphoides peltata* in western Newfoundland. A recent paper cited below by Stephen Darbyshire and Ardath Francis of Agriculture and Agrifoods Canada, Ottawa, provides an in-depth review of this species country-wide and utilizes information from our Sarracenia article. The paper describes everything you would want to know about this aquatic plant in North America and more. This is

proof positive that individuals actually read our newsletter, and what is more, even find information therein useful, regardless of its modest nature.

Here is a good example of one of my pet exhortations which you have probably heard me "spout off about" before, and no doubt will again. Our members make hundreds of interesting, useful, and valuable botanical observations each year, but very few ever get recorded. Most of what we know today comes from the

writings and specimens of those who have come before us. Only we can leave observations and records of the present for those who come after us so they will better understand how the flora has developed and changed and is likely to further change in their future. We are the present guardians and messengers for future generations.

Often individuals are too shy or feel that their observations are too insignificant to record. No one needs a title, degree or special expertise to

make and record useful and interesting items to share with the rest of us. Biologists revere Charles Darwin as a great man of science, but many of his writings are just simple observations about the plants and animals he found around him. He writes no better and probably was no “brighter” than we are today; he was simply interested, observant, and had the good fortune to be “at the right place at the right time” Of course, it did not hurt to have the wealth and the time to vigorously pursue his passion. Almost any interested naturalist today can make similar observations and writings. To illustrate, following are a few lines from his 1896 book “Insectivorous Plants”.

*“During the summer of 1860, I was surprised by finding how large a number of insects were caught by the leaves of the common sundew (Drosera rotundifolia) on a heath in Sussex. I had heard that insects were thus caught, but knew nothing further on the subject. I gathered by chance a dozen plants, bearing fifty-six fully expanded leaves, and on thirty-one of these dead insects or remnants of them adhered; and, no doubt, many more would have been caught afterwards by these same leaves, and still more by those as yet not expanded. On one*

*plant all six leaves had caught their prey; and on several plants very many leaves had caught more than a single insect. On one large leaf I found the remains of thirteen distinct insects. Flies (Diptera) are captured much oftener than other insects. The largest kind which I have seen caught was a small butterfly (...); but the Rev. H. M. Wilkinson informs me that he found a large living dragon-fly with*

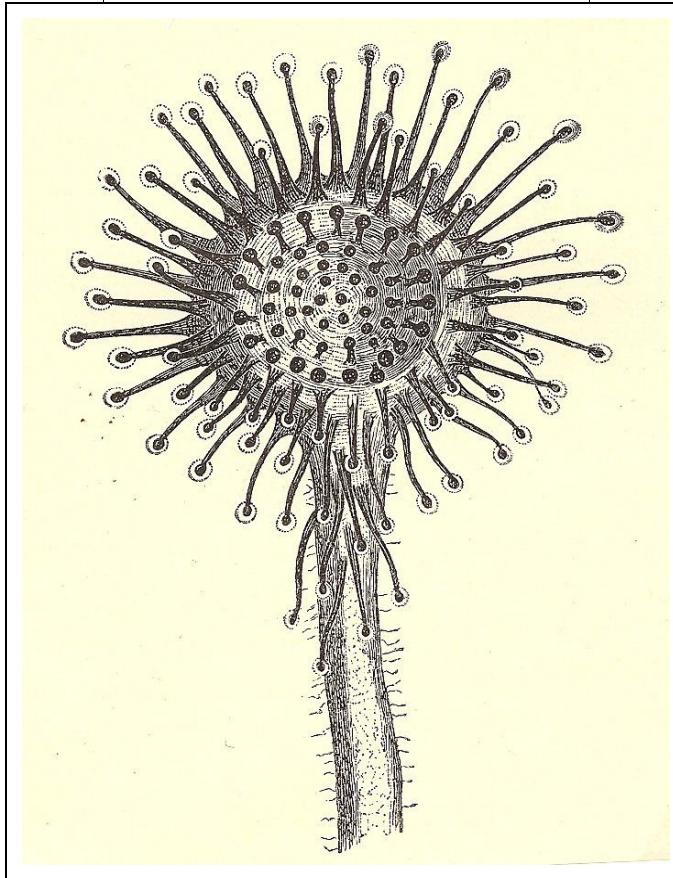
roundleaf sundew after some 277 pages with the following remarks:

*“I have now given a brief recapitulation of the chief points observed by me, with respect to the structure, movements, constitution, and habits of Drosera rotundifolia ; and we see how little has been made out in comparison with what remains unexplained and unknown.”*

Over half of his 462 page book is devoted to this little bog plant which also is very common here in our Newfoundland peatlands. His observations are as useful and interesting today as they were over one hundred years ago when he penned them. (Oh, to have had the wealth, time, and curiosity of Darwin to spend endless days and years studying the plants, animals and fungi around me !!!).

We have a great vehicle, our newsletter Sarracenia; let’s make good use of it, and let it be our record for posterity. I propose that we attempt to swamp our editor Howard with information and articles long, short and intermediate. Think about submitting at least one item a

year in support of our society, newsletter, and for future botanical enthusiasts. The planet is changing. If we do not put our observations in print, how will they know?



*its body firmly held by two leaves. As this plant is extremely common in some districts, the number of insects thus annually slaughtered must be prodigious.”*

He concluded his observations on

### Cited Literature

Darbyshire, Stephen J. and Ardath Francis. 2008. The Biology of Invasive Alien Plants in Canada. 10. *Nymphoides peltata* (S. G. Gmel.) Kuntze. Canadian Journal of Plant Science 88: 811 – 829.

Darwin, Charles. 1896. Insectivorous Plants. D. Appleton and Company, New York.

## Newfoundland Cinquefoils

by Henry Mann

On the Wildflower Society field trip of 2006, an evening presentation was made about the genus *Potentilla* of the Rose Family (Rosaceae). Those present received an illustrated handout as well as some pressed specimens. This article excerpts some of that information for readers of Sarracenia who were not present on that rainy evening. Those who were will find most of this article in their booklets with additional illustrations and references. Perhaps this article will also rekindle other memories of trips past especially the "Northeasterly Gales" field trip and that soggy evening in the fire hall of Newtown.

For modern taxonomic dogmatists, I should state that I still include in the genus *Potentilla* the recently split off genera *Argentina*, *Comarum*, *Dasiphora* and *Sibbaldiopsis* as do most of the available guides and manuals produced in the nineties and prior. So the current *Argentina anserina* here is still *Potentilla anserina*, and likewise *Comarum palustre* = *P. palustris*, *Dasiphora fruticosa* = *P. fruticosa*, and *Sibbaldiopsis tridentata* = *P. tridentata*. Also not

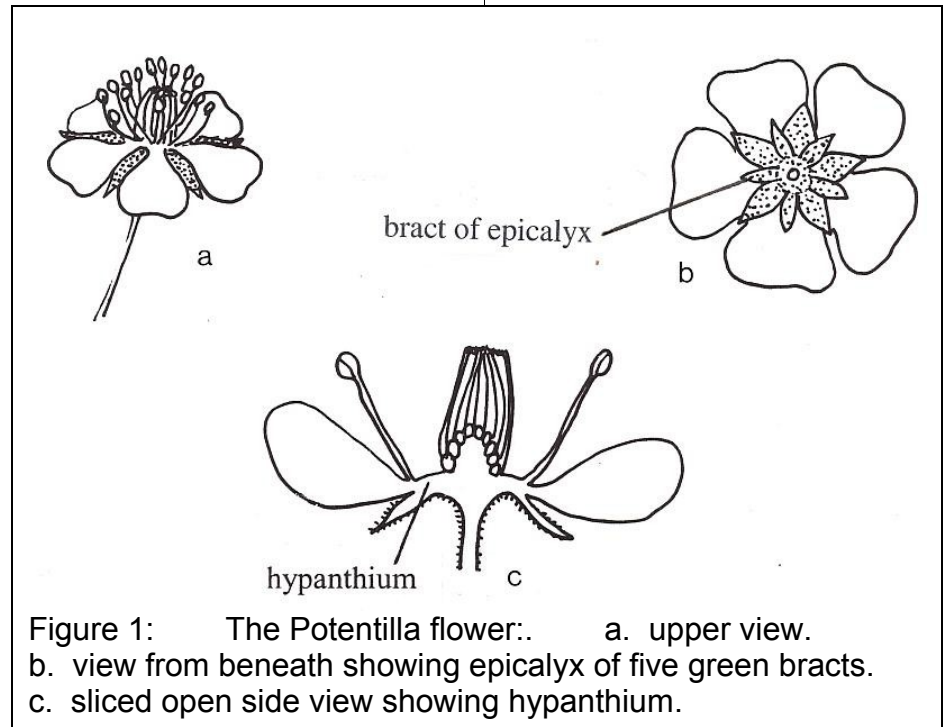


Figure 1: The *Potentilla* flower: a. upper view. b. view from beneath showing epicalyx of five green bracts. c. sliced open side view showing hypanthium.

included in the descriptions and key are the three cinquefoils that only occur in the Labrador portion of the province.

The Rose Family is the fourth largest family of plants in Newfoundland with about 67 species. Flowers typically have all four of the standard parts; sepals, petals,

stamens and pistils. Usually there are 5 sepals, 5 petals, many (11 or more) stamens, and one or more pistils. Sometimes the number of petals can exceed five as in many horticultural roses, and in a few species, flowers are four-parted rather than five-parted. Even though flowers of the Rose Family can be quite variable, they generally share two common features; a) a "rim" or cup-shaped structure (hypanthium) to which the sepals, petals and stamens are attached, and b) a large number of stamens. Sometimes the hypanthium is short and a careful examination with a hand lens is required to notice it.

The *Potentilla* flower is illustrated in Figure 1. In *Potentilla*, and also in closely related genera like the strawberries (*Fragaria spp.*), a characteristic "epicalyx" occurs which is composed of little green leafy structures (bracts) that look like an extra set of five sepals. These alternate with the 5 true sepals.

Some buttercup flowers (Family

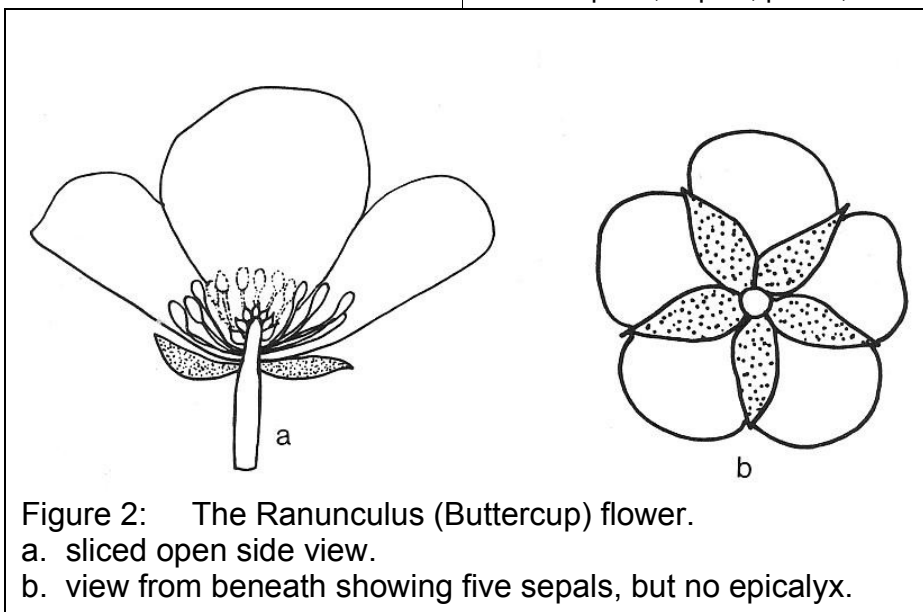


Figure 2: The *Ranunculus* (Buttercup) flower. a. sliced open side view. b. view from beneath showing five sepals, but no epicalyx.

Ranunculaceae) superficially resemble those of the cinquefoils, having 5 sepals, 5 petals, many stamens and many pistils. However, the buttercups have no hypanthium, no epicalyx, and buttercup leaves have no stipules, which members of the Rose Family have (Figure 2).

Cinquefoil leaves are useful in identification. However, it should be recognized that basal leaves or the lower stem leaves may differ in size, shape, and in number of leaflets from

those further up the stem (Figure 3). Also in some species the basal leaves wither in mature plants. When using the keys, features of basal or lowest stem leaves should always be determined. Figure 4 (p36) illustrates the typical shape of basal or lower stem leaves of our 17 Insular Newfoundland species.

The key essentially divides species into three groups: those with compound leaves of three leaflets, those with palmately compound

leaves of 5 or more leaflets, and those with pinnately compound leaves of 5 or more leaflets. In a palmately compound leaf, all leaflets are attached near the same place, and in pinnately compound leaves the leaflets are attached down a stalk as illustrated in Figure 5.

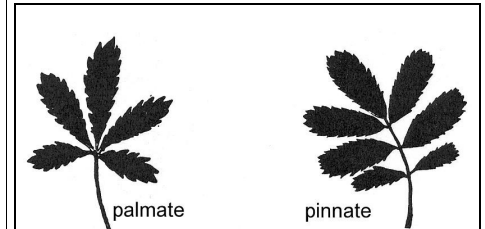


Figure 5:  
Comparison of palmate and pinnate leaf forms.

Most Newfoundland *Potentilla* species can be readily identified using the supplied key. Some species are currently considered uncommon in the province as indicated in Table 2, but several are likely more common than reported. As with many introduced and/or “weedy” species, they are often overlooked and go unrecorded. Look for them in your travels and report new distributions here in the pages of your newsletter. Much interesting as well as valuable botany and natural history goes unrecorded in our province because individuals simply do not take the time to pass their observations on to others in written form. The act of “searching” and “finding” in nature is one of the most pleasurable pursuits that naturalists can engage in, but do not forget the follow-up – “recording” and “reporting”. Sarracenia is an excellent vehicle for reporting your observations.

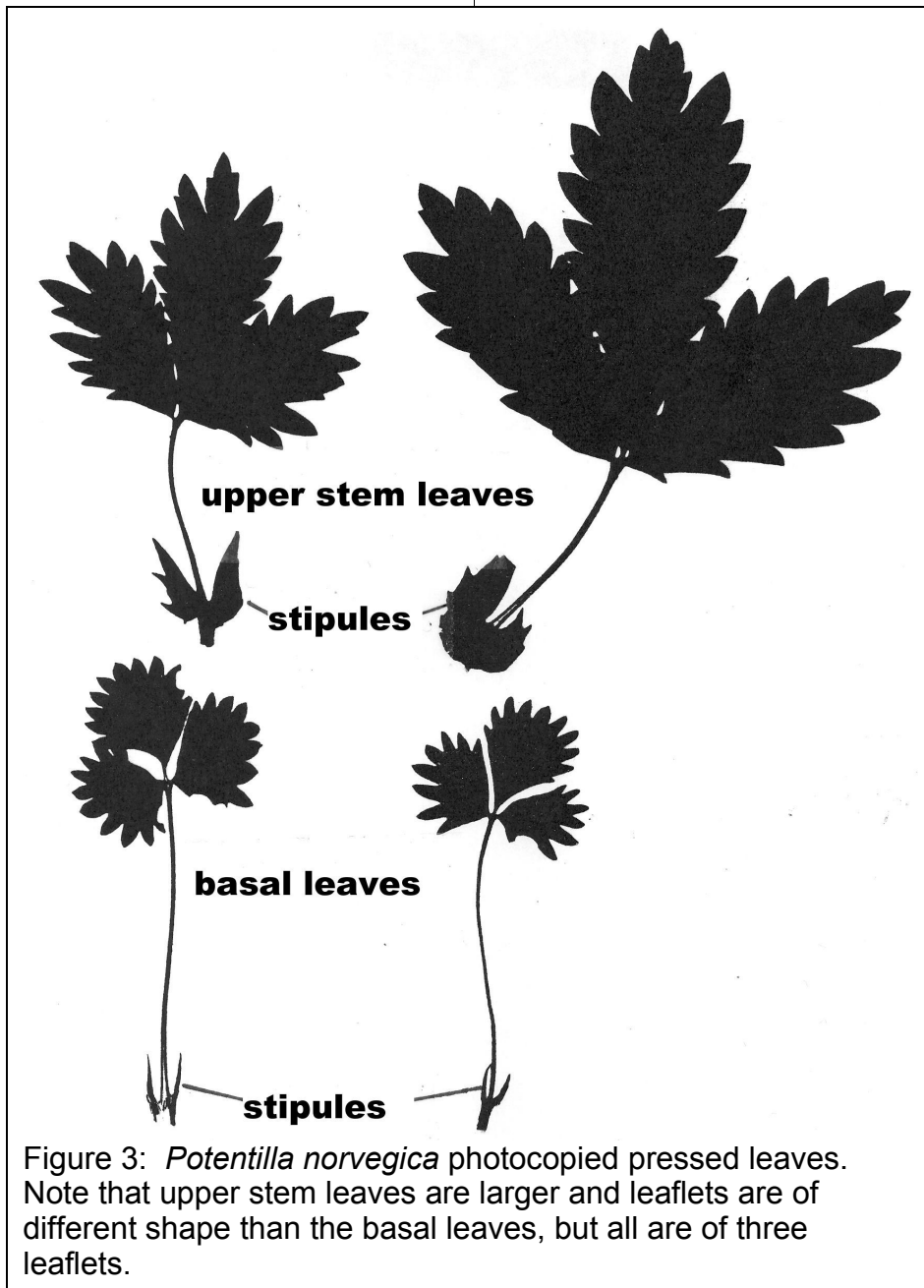
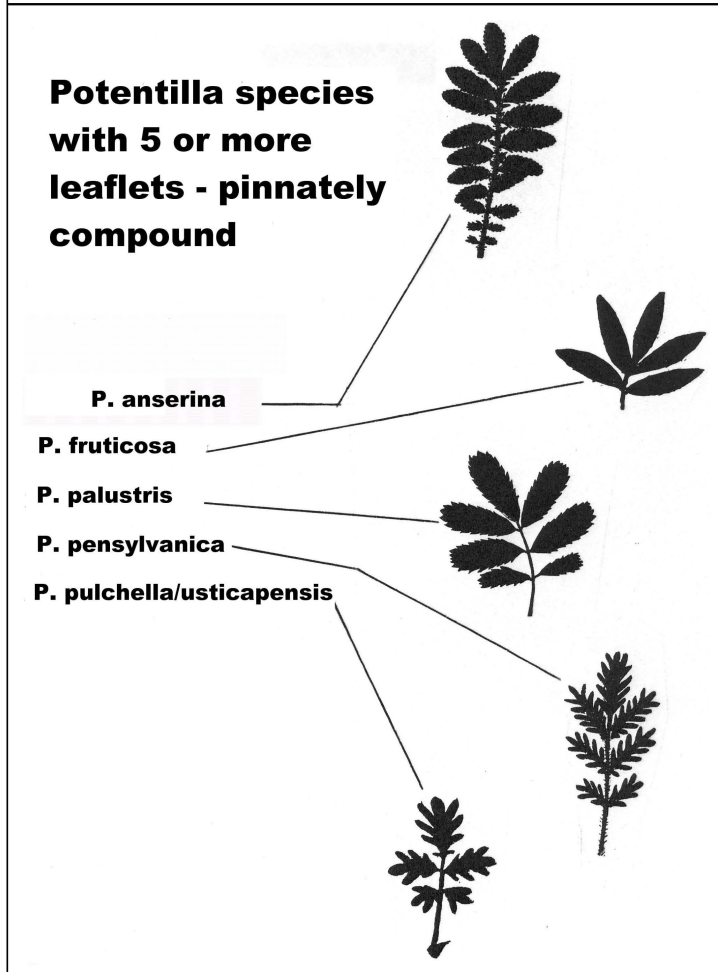
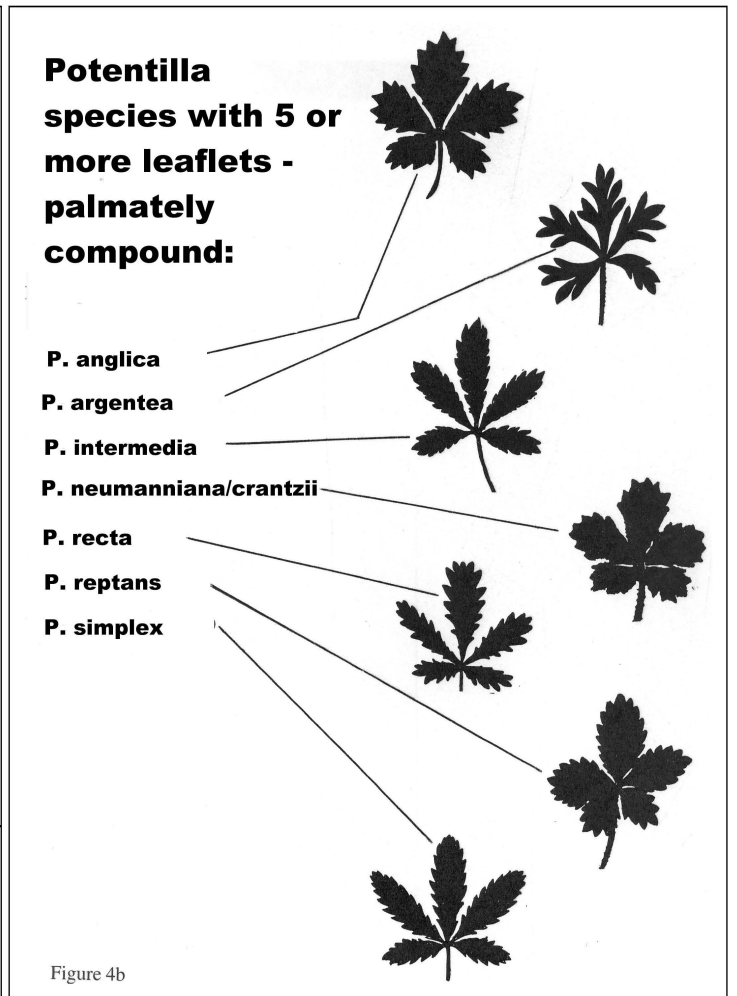
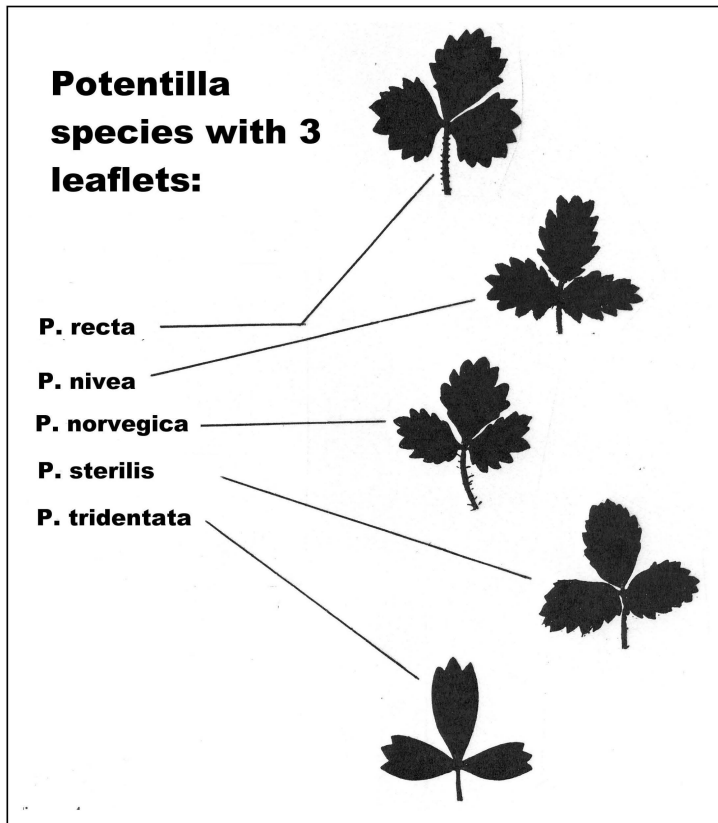


Figure 3: *Potentilla norvegica* photocopied pressed leaves. Note that upper stem leaves are larger and leaflets are of different shape than the basal leaves, but all are of three leaflets.



*Potentilla nivea*

Henry Mann

Figures 4a, 4b, 4c (leaves not to same scale)

## Key to Insular Newfoundland *Potentilla* Species

1. Basal leaves or lower stem leaves with only 3 leaflets. . . . . 2
1. Basal leaves or lower stem leaves with at least 5 leaflets . . . . . 6
  
2. Petals white, achenes pubescent. . . . . 3
2. Petals yellow, achenes glabrous. . . . . 4
  
3. Leaflets with only 3-5 teeth at tips, otherwise untoothed; leaves green, shiny, leathery and evergreen, sparsely hairy. . . . . *Sibbaldiopsis tridentata* (*P. tridentata*)
3. Leaflets regularly toothed throughout; leaves soft, herbaceous, hairy; plants strawberry-like. . . . . *P. sterilis*
  
4. Petals much surpassing the sepals; leaflets densely white-hairy beneath. . . . . *P. nivea*
4. Petals shorter or about the same length as the sepals; leaflets pubescent, but not densely white-hairy beneath. . . . . 5
  
5. Flower petals and sepals usually 4 each, basal leaves with 3 leaflets, but stem leaves appearing 5-parted because of large, deeply incised stipules, weak stems often falling prostrate. . . . . *P. erecta*
5. Flower petals and sepals usually 5 each, stipules smaller and leaves obviously 3-parted, sturdy upright stems. . . . . *P. norvegica*
  
6. Lower main leaves palmately compound. . . . . 7
6. Lower main leaves pinnately compound. . . . . 13
  
7. Flowers mostly borne singly on the ends of stalks arising from the axils of the leaves, stems weak, prostrate especially in age, often rooting at nodes. . . . . 8
7. Flowers borne in a branching inflorescence, stems upright, or if prostrate, not rooting at nodes. . . . . 10
  
8. Flowers usually with 4 sepals and 4 petals each, leaves glabrous. . . . . *P. anglica*  
(But see also *P. erecta* which also has flower parts in 4's, the leaves appear to have 5 leaflets, but two are large stipules).
8. Flowers usually with 5 sepals and 5 petals each, leaves glabrous or pubescent beneath. . . . . 9
  
9. Leaves glabrous beneath, flowers to 2 cm across. . . . . *P. reptans*
9. Leaves pubescent beneath, flowers 1.5 cm or less across. . . . . *P. simplex*
  
10. Leaves densely white-hairy beneath. . . . . *P. argentea*
10. Leaves hairy, but not densely white hairy-beneath. . . . . 11
  
11. Petals mostly shorter or as long as the sepals. . . . . *P. intermedia* \*
11. Petals mostly longer than the sepals. . . . . 12
  
12. Petals deep yellow with an orange base, stipules thin, veiny-brown, stems often depressed at base. . . . . *P. neumanniana* (*P. crantzii*)
12. Petals pale yellow, deeper yellow near base, stipules green, stems erect. . . . . *P. recta* \*
  
13. Flowers borne singly at the ends of leafless stalks arising from the nodes of runners. . . . . *Argentina anserina* (*P. anserina*)
13. Flowers produced in a branching leafy cluster of 2 or more. . . . . 14
  
14. Shrubs up to 1 meter tall (sometimes miniature and prostrate in exposed coastal areas), leaflets not toothed, achenes hairy. . . . . *Dasiphora fruticosa* (*P. fruticosa*)
14. Herbs, leaflets toothed, achenes not hairy. . . . . 15

- 15. Petals and sepals magenta to purple. . . . . *Comarum palustre* (*P. palustris*)
- 15. Petals yellow. . . . . 16
  
- 16. Major basal leaves with 5-7 or more leaflets, leaflets pale hairy beneath, but not with very long, dense silky-white hairs, stems upright usually more than 20 cm tall, style of pistil hardly longer than mature achene. . . . . *P. pennsylvanica*
- 16. Major basal leaves with 5 leaflets, smaller upper leaves often with 3 leaflets, leaflets with dense, long, silky-white hairs beneath, plants dwarf, small, tufted, usually less than 12 cm tall, style of pistil considerably longer than the mature achene. . . . . *P. pulchella* (*P. usticapensis*)

\* If in doubt about these two species, refer to Table 1.

<b>Table 1: Comparison of <i>Potentilla recta</i> and <i>Potentilla intermedia</i></b>	
<b><i>Potentilla recta</i></b>	<b><i>Potentilla intermedia</i></b>
<b>Stems</b> erect, simple to inflorescence	<b>Stems</b> freely branched, often not erect
<b>Stems</b> loosely hirsute (sparse long coarse hairs) - use handlens	<b>Stems</b> grayish-tomentulose (matted or tangled silky hairs) - use handlens
<b>Inflorescence</b> nearly leafless	<b>Inflorescence</b> leafy
<b>Inflorescence</b> more or less flat topped, flowers borne erect	<b>Inflorescence</b> much branched, not flat topped
<b>Basal leaves</b> 5-7 leaflets	<b>Basal leaves</b> 5 leaflets
<b>Leaves</b> dark green, very strongly veined	<b>Leaves</b> medium green, not very strongly veined
<b>Leaflets</b> hirsute on both surfaces, paler beneath (sparse long coarse hairs)	<b>Leaflets</b> sparsely tomentulose, grayish villous beneath (grayish silky beneath)
<b>Flowers</b> 1.5 – 2.5 cm broad	<b>Flowers</b> 8 – 10 mm broad
<b>Petals</b> equal or longer than sepals	<b>Petals</b> shorter or equal to sepals
<b>Stamens</b> 25 – 30	<b>Stamens</b> 5 – 20
<b>Anthers</b> 1.0 – 1.5 mm long	<b>Anthers</b> 0.5 – 0.75 mm long
<b>Calyx</b> hirsute (sparse long hairs)	<b>Calyx</b> villous (long soft shaggy hairs)
<b>Mature fruiting calyx</b> 1 – 1.5 cm high	<b>Mature fruiting calyx</b> 5 – 8 mm high
<b>Style</b> shorter than mature carpel	<b>Style</b> equalling mature carpel
<b>Achenes</b> (fruit) rugose ( wrinkled)	<b>Achenes</b> (fruit) wrinkled with conspicuous longitudinal ribs





**Table 2: Notes on the Distribution of Cinquefoils in Insular Newfoundland**

(Because new records are continuously being made, readers may know of additions to this information. If so, please let us know in Sarracenia.)

**Species in bold type are considered to be natives.**

<i>P. anglica</i> - Trailing tormentil	Recorded only from the Avalon Peninsula.
<b><i>P. anserina</i></b> ( <i>Argentina anserina</i> ) - Silverweed	Throughout the Island.
<i>P. argentea</i> - Silver-leaved cinquefoil	Avalon and western Nfld.
<i>P. erecta</i> - Tormentil	Only recorded from the St. John's area.
<b><i>P. fruticosa</i></b> ( <i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i> ) Shrubby cinquefoil	Throughout the Island (especially on limestone).
<i>P. intermedia</i> - Downy cinquefoil	Recorded from Stephenville, Corner Brook and St. John's.
<b><i>P. neumanniana</i></b> ( <i>P. crantzii</i> ) - Crantz's cinquefoil	Only in western Nfld., mainly on limestones.
<b><i>P. nivea</i></b> - Snowy cinquefoil	Mainly on calcareous rocks and gravels, western Nfld. and GNP.
<b><i>P. norvegica</i></b> - Rough cinquefoil	Throughout the Island.
<b><i>P. palustris</i></b> ( <i>Comarum palustre</i> ) - Marsh cinquefoil	Wet areas throughout the Island.
<b><i>P. pensylvanica</i></b> - Coastal cinquefoil	Western Nfld. and GNP – <b>RARE.</b>
<b><i>P. pulchella</i></b> ( <i>P. usticapensis</i> ) - Burnt Cape cinquefoil	Only known from Burnt Cape/Cape Norman – <b>RARE.</b>
<i>P. recta</i> - Sulphur cinquefoil	Recorded from Corner Brook and St. John's.
<i>P. reptans</i> – Creeping cinquefoil	Not yet reported from Nfld., but almost certainly will be.
<i>P. simplex</i> – Common Cinquefoil (!)	Only recorded from 3 localities, east, west, and central Nfld. - <b>RARE.</b>
<i>P. sterilis</i> – Barren strawberry	Old reports from the Avalon (Portugal Cove and Bay Roberts), not seen in recent times.
<b><i>P. tridentata</i></b> ( <i>Sibbaldiopsis tridentata</i> ) - Three-toothed cinquefoil	Throughout the Island.

#### The 2008-9 Executive

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BOOK REVIEW:

## The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady by Edith Holden & The Edwardian Lady (The Story of Edith Holden) by Ina Taylor

Reviewed by Carmel Conway

This Christmas I received two delightful books from my husband, "The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady" by Edith Holden (1977) and "The Edwardian Lady" by Ina Taylor (1980). Bill came upon them while visiting an old bookstore in Ottawa. I would assume that both books are no longer in print. (*Readily available used. Ed.*) On opening Edith's diary my attention was immediately caught by her beautiful illustrations of the flora and fauna of the British countryside.

Edith Holden was one of seven children, born in 1871, to Arthur and Emma Holden. I found her parents immensely interesting figures. I discovered that Arthur operated a paint and varnish business in Birmingham and that he and his wife had a strong interest in the arts and literature, and they enjoyed the enlightened and intellectual spirit of this growing, bustling industrial center. It was the beginning of the Arts and Crafts Movement, and William Morris and Walter Crane were contemporaries. Arthur had an immense interest in botany while Emma was a highly educated woman who authored two religious books. The Holdens were non-conformists/Unitarian. Arthur and Emma were

very civic minded and the family was committed to the betterment of the city's less fortunate. As his business expanded Arthur was able to move his family to grander homes with beautiful gardens. It was in these surroundings that Edith discovered her talent.

Edith obtained formal art instruction and became both artist and art teacher. However, it was her 1906 notebook "The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady" that made her posthumously famous. Of course it was common during the Victorian and Edwardian periods for English ladies to fill their day sketching the countryside and writing poetry in their private journals. However, what set

Edith's diary apart was that it was not a personal journal, full of sentimentality or personal thought, but a concise field guide filled with accurate observations of nature.

As I flipped through Edith's notebook, I could not help but be struck by her rich detail and artistic eye. I could visualize Edith lying on the ground closely inspecting a flower. As wildflower society members we often do the same, but we have the aid of a magnifying glass, field guide and camera. And we don't have to worry about sitting and sketching for hours in inclement weather. I could not help but think that we have lost something here, the end of a skilled art form practised by many young women.

Edith married fellow artist, sculptor Ernest Smith. Edith's paintings were exhibited by the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists. Sadly, in 1920, while gathering buds from a chestnut tree by the riverbank at the famous Kew Gardens in London, Edith fell into the Thames and drowned.

*Please note while I have commented on her diary, details of her life came from the Ina Taylor biography. Should any member wish to borrow either book, please contact me by e-mail.*



## Index of Scientific Names for Volume 16

<b>Achillea</b>	<b>Echornia</b>	<b>Myriophyllum</b>	neumanniana.....37, 39
millefolium.....29	crassipes.....6	tenellum.....5	nivea.....37, 39
<b>Alternanthera</b>	<b>Eriocaulon</b>	<b>Nitella</b>	norvegica.....37, 39
sessilis.....6	aquaticum.....5	opaca.....5	palustris.....34, 38, 39
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>Geranium</b>	<b>Nuphar</b>	pennsylvanica.....38, 39
anserina.....34, 37, 39	robertianum.....4	variegata.....5	pulchella.....38, 39
<b>Bacopa</b>	<b>Heracleum</b>	<b>Nymphaea</b>	recta.....37, 38, 39
monnieri.....6	maximum.....4	spp.....6	reptans.....37, 39
<b>Bartonia</b>	<b>Hydrocotyle</b>	<b>Nymphoides</b>	simplex.....23, 27, 37, 39
paniculata.....15, 25, 26	leucocephala.....6	cordata.....6, 7	sterilis.....37, 39
<b>Calopogon</b>	<b>Hygrophila</b>	peltata.....1, 5, 6, 32, 33	tridentata.....34, 37, 39
pulchellus.....3	polysperma.....6	<b>Orobanche</b>	usticapensis.....38, 39
<b>Caltha</b>	<b>Ilex</b>	uniflora.....4	<b>Rhynchospora</b>
palustris.....29	mucronata.....25	<b>Osmunda</b>	alba.....25
<b>Ceratophyllum</b>	verticillata.....15, 25	regalis.....25	<b>Rosa</b>
demersum.....6	<b>Iris</b>	<b>Oxytropis</b>	virginiana.....25
<b>Chara</b>	pseudacorus.....6	campestris.....28	<b>Rozites</b>
virgata.....5	<b>Isoetes</b>	<b>Phalaris</b>	caperatus.....9
<b>Chimaphila</b>	echinospora.....5	arundinacea.....6	<b>Sagittaria</b>
umbellata.....4	lacustris.....5	<b>Photinia</b>	graminea.....5
<b>Cichorium</b>	<b>Juncus</b>	floribunda.....25	<b>Salvinia</b>
intybus.....4	effusus.....6	<b>Pistia</b>	natans.....6
<b>Cirsium</b>	<b>Larix</b>	stratioties.....6	<b>Saponaria</b>
muticum.....3	laricina.....25	<b>Platanthera</b>	officinalis.....3
<b>Colocasia</b>	<b>Lemna</b>	blephariglottis.....25	<b>Sarracenia</b>
esculenta.....6	spp.....6	clavellata.....3, 25	purpurea.....3, 25
<b>Comarum</b>	<b>Linum</b>	dilatata.....3	<b>Schizaea</b>
palustre.....34, 38, 39	catharticum.....29	grandiflora.....3	pusilla.....25
<b>Craterellus</b>	<b>Liparis</b>	psycodes.....3	<b>Silbaldiopsis</b>
infundibuliformis.....9	lœselii.....23, 24	<b>Pleurocybella</b>	tridentata.....34, 37, 39
lutescens.....9	<b>Lobelia</b>	porrigens.....9	<b>Silene</b>
tubaeformis.....9	cardinalis.....6	<b>Pogonia</b>	dioica.....3
<b>Cyperus</b>	dortmanna.....5	ophioglossoides.....3, 25	vulgaris.....3
alternifolius.....6	<b>Lonicera</b>	<b>Polystichum</b>	<b>Spiranthes</b>
<b>Dasiphora</b>	villosa.....25	braunii.....28	vernalis.....3
fruticosa.....34, 37, 39	<b>Lychnis</b>	<b>Pontederia</b>	<b>Symphotrichum</b>
<b>Diervilla</b>	flos-cuculi.....3	cordata.....6	puniceum.....25
lonicera.....25	<b>Malva</b>	<b>Potentilla</b>	<b>Utricularia</b>
<b>Doellingeria</b>	moschata.....4	anglica.....37, 39	cornuta.....26
umbellata.....25	<b>Medicago</b>	anserina.....34, 37, 39	<b>Vallisneria</b>
<b>Drosera</b>	sativa.....4	argentea.....37, 39	tortifolia.....6
rotundifolia.....33	<b>Mentha</b>	crantzii.....37, 39	<b>Xyris</b>
<b>Echium</b>	argentina.....6	erecta.....37, 39	montana.....25
vulgare.....29	<b>Minuartia</b>	fruticosa.....34, 37, 39	
	groenlandica.....3	intermedia.....37, 38, 39	

*(Scientific names without authorities follow: "Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Newfoundland and Labrador" by Susan J. Meades, Stuart G. Hay, and Luc Brouillet, 2000.)*

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