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# *A New Polygonum from Garfield County, Utah*

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The plant described below was collected 6 miles north of Escalante, Garfield Co., Utah, by W. P. Cottam, Sept. 17, 1935. It was found growing in great abundance along sandy ravines on the rocky Navajo sandstone spur which projects southward from the Aquarius Plateau. The type specimen, No. 6507, deposited in the University of Utah Herbarium, was collected at an elevation of about 7000 ft. at the specific location of T34S.R.3E.

Grateful acknowledgments are due Dr. R. V. Chamberlin for the Latin diagnosis and Dr. W. W. Newby for much help with the figures.

## *Polygonum utahense*, sp. nov.

Herba pumila monticola, annua; altitudone 1.5-3.5 cm. Caulis consuetudine ramosa, erecta. Folia 3-14 mm. longa, erecta, lineara, mucronata, marginibus revolutis. Scapus infloescens spiciformis, ostensus. Axilla quisque floribus 2-4; segmenta perianthii aut alba aut rubellus, 2-2.5 mm. longa, orbiculata. Stamina 8; stylus tripartitus. Achenium ovatum, cuspidatum, erectum, nigrum, nitens, insigniter triquetra, 1.5-2 mm. longa, 1 mm. lata.

A dwarf mountain annual 1.5-3.5 cm. high. Stem short, erect, terete, brown, simple or divided into two to four branches. Cauline leaves one to three, erect, linear, purplish, coriaceous, papillate, mucronate, the margins revolute, 6 to 14 mm. long and about 1 mm. wide. These merge into the floral leaves, lance-linear, shortening to 3 mm. at the top. Inflorescence spike-like, almost covering the branches; flowers erect, pedicelled, 2 to 4 in each axil; perianth deeply 5-parted, petaloid, white or pink, 2 to 2.5 mm. high; segments rounded, cupulate, elliptical to orbicular with a narrow green or dark-brown rib, 1 to 1.5 mm. wide. Stamens 8, included, 1 to 1.5 mm. long; anthers dark brown, ellipsoidal globose, introrse-versatile; anther-sacs prominent, hemispherical; filaments narrowed above, thin and spatulate at the base. Pistil .7 mm.

long, style 3-parted to the base, persistent,  $\frac{3}{4}$  as long as the ovary, bearing globular stigmas. Achene ovate, pointed, prominently 3-angled, black, smooth, shining, 1.5 to 2 mm. long, 1 mm. wide, included.

This neat little plant differs from other dwarf forms by the showy petaloid perianths covering the branches and by the erectly held, black and shining achenes. *P. minimum* Wats. has wide leaves and a more prostrate habit; *P. sawatchense* Small is larger throughout, has long branches and green perianths; *P. Watsonii* Small, *P. unifolium* Small, *P. paronychioides* Small, *P. kelloggii* Greene, and *P. polygaloides* Meis. all have brown, more or less punctate, striate, or dull achenes. Other small forms with black and shining achenes have reflexed pedicels.

## Figures and Explanations

## PLATE I.

1. Habit sketch of *Polygonum utahense*.
2. Section of a plant, greatly enlarged, showing flowers, leaves and ocreae.
- 2a. Cross section of a leaf showing revolute margin.
3. Front and side views of stamen.
4. Achene.
5. Pistil.

