Botanizing with "Marcus E. Jones, A.M." in Texas

V. L. Cory[1]

Prior to the printing of my paper, "A new Loco from the Edwards Plateau of Texas" *(Rhodora,* vol. 32, January, 1930), possibly because he had published a revision of the genus *Astragalus,* I began a correspondence with Marcus E. Jones. He drove from Claremont, California, in the spring of 1930, to visit me at the Experiment Station thirty miles southeast of Sonora, Texas, on the Edwards Plateau. In his *Contributions to Western Botany No. 17* (September 3, 1930), Jones does not mention meeting me in Texas; but on page 21 he does mention my name in dedicating a new species of onion, and compliments me as being "an indefatigable botanist." After I had made his personal acquaintance, I knew that Jones was paying me a sincere compliment.

Jones left Claremont on April 1, 1930, and reached Sonora the afternoon of April 13. My friends in town saw him driving around and considered him an old peddler, for his car was an overloaded 1916 Model-T Ford. He called on them to get directions for finding me, but remained in town all night. He reached the Experiment Station at one o'clock the next afternoon, and we began our conversations while he partook of a late dinner. After his hunger was appeased, I took him in the State car provided for my use, a 1914 Model-T Ford, which I had used while at the Experiment Station at Lubbock. But my car was empty of load, while his car did not have room for me.

We visited two of the Station pastures, particularly the horse trap to see the pure stand of juniper (the identity of which was unknown to me at that time, but which subsequently was known to be *Juniperus Pinchoti* Sudw.). Jones assured me that this was not *J. utahensis* (Engelm.) Lemmon. At that time Jones lacked but eleven days of being eighty years old, and compared with him, I was a mere boy and a rank amateur as a botanist. I did not presume to tell

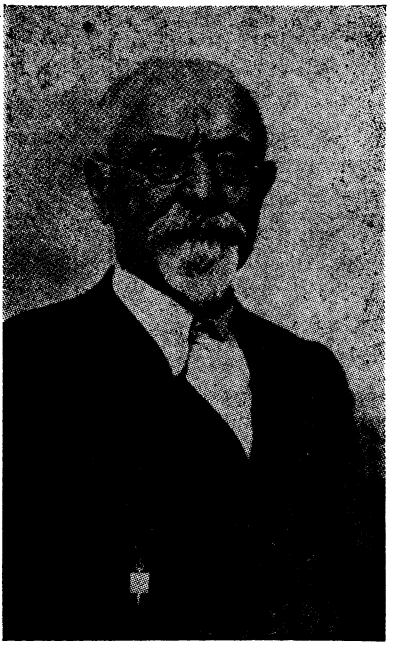
[1]EDITOR'S NOTE: The meticulously accurate records of collecting localities kept by Mr. Cory should be extremely useful to botanists doing monographic work concerning plants of Texas. The notes here presented correct several erroneous statements regarding type localities and distribution records published by Marcus E. Jones. The incidental account of the association between one of the most colorful of western botanists, and a man who for nearly forty years has been agricultural experiment station manager, range botanist, and one of the foremost collectors and plant taxonomists of Texas, will perhaps be of interest to many readers, botanical and otherwise.—LLOYD H. SHINNERS.

him anything, unless in answer to his questions, and for the most part he was "telling me." On April 15 the station veterinarian, with a better State car, took Jones and me to a ranch north of Ozona in Crockett Co. It was on this ranch that I first saw my yellow-flowered loco, referred to above, and I helped Jones collect the plant at its southernmost occurrence. A rain that afternoon made roads so muddy that we gave up our plan to visit Salviastrum Mesa, in northwestern Crockett Co., 32 airline miles northwest of Ozona (so-called from being the type locality of *Salviastrum dolichanthum* Cory, *Rhodora,* vol. 32, April, 1940), to collect another of my species. We visited the site where I first saw an undescribed species of *Selenia.* This was at a muddy water hole (on Johnson Draw six miles north of Ozona) which in the early days was known as the Six Mile Waterhole. This type of waterhole is known as a "charco," as contrasted with "tinaja," a waterhole in rock. My desire to use the term "charco" as a specific epithet for this plant was overruled by an authority at an eastern institution, who suggested other appropriate names, none of which appealed to me. I suggested to Jones that it would be fitting for me to dedicate the plant to him, in honor of his visit, and also because he was the only botanist besides myself who had seen the growing plant. He dryly remarked that the suggestion was appropriate, but that the name probably would not meet with approbation either. However, no valid objection to this course was discovered, and thus I could accord satisfactory recognition to my distinguished visitor *(Selenia Jonesii* Cory; *Rhodora,* vol. 33, June, 1931).

We stayed in Sonora that night, and visited Station pastures the next day, and discussed plans for his further field trips in Texas. Because of a previous engagement of considerable interest to me, I was unable to accompany Jones on his remaining travels in Texas. After an early dinner, Jones and I separated just before noon on April 17, 1930. Our veterinarian accompanied Jones to a ranch southeast of Rocksprings where goats were dying from feeding excessively upon the budding inflorescence shoots of *Nolina texana* S. Wats., locally known as "sacahuiste."

Jones went on to Del Rio to spend the night, and then headed back for California. The report of this trip is in his

Contributions to Western Botany No. 17, under the heading of "Botanizing in Texas in 1930." In this article I note three mis-statements of fact, which reveal a carelessness to be avoided in scientific papers. Speaking of the Experiment Station, he said, "I found that the station was 19 miles south on a state ranch." The Station is more nearly southeast and, at that time, by road it was 31.7 miles from town. The visit to "a stock ranch to examine conditions of stock poisoning due to *Oxytropis*," reveals the Californian, where a small



Marcus E. Jones (1852-1934)

farm may be called a ranch; and for an expert on *Astragalus* to refer to *Oxytropis*, when that genus is not represented anywhere in that part of Texas, reveals that my words about my yellow-flowered loco were wasted upon him. Again he mentions that there are some twenty-six experimental stations in Texas, whereas the number was more nearly nineteen. Also, there was no stock poisoning due to loco, nor to any other plant on that particular ranch.

Beginning on page 18 of *Contribution No. 17*, under "Notes and new species," Jones discusses some plants of Texas about which I have some comment:

Allium Nuttallii S. Wats. (Jones cites *A. Helleri* Small as a synonym) was growing in my yard at the Experiment Station in northern Edwards County, and now is considered a variety of *A. mutabile* Michx. At any rate it is not *A. Nuttallii.* It is the larger plant with white flowers and not the smaller plant with pink flowers. *(A. Drummondii* Regel) (the latter in all probability not seen by Jones in 1930).

The original description of *Allium Coryi* Jones is given on page 21. The story in this connection is of interest. In August or possibly September, 1927, the late Prof. H. J. Cottle, of Sul Ross State Teachers College at Alpine, asked me to check the specimens in the College herbarium. He was from Nebraska, was trained as an ecologist and not as a taxonomist, and was without literature to help him much in becoming familiar with the flora around Alpine. Many of his specimens were referred to the wrong species (some to the wrong genus), and others were not named. One plant was a yellow-flowered onion, which was new to me; and it was referred to *A. Nuttallii* S. Wats. provisionally. I told Prof. Cottle that the plant was new to me, and suggested that he describe it. At that time I had not described any plants myself, so I did not offer to do this myself, and it did not occur to Cottle to ask me to do so. He sent the plant to Dr. J. K. Small, who assured him that his onion was an undescribed species, and possibly intimated that he would describe it later on. Jones, having previously prepared a revision of the genus *Allium,* was especially interested in plants of that genus. He had so informed me in our very first conversation, when I found him admiring an onion in my yard, which he said was *A. reticulatum* Fraser, a species unknown to me. So I told Jones about the yellow-flowered onion found by Cottle, which I had assured him about two and a half years previously was an undescribed species, and which as yet had not been named. Jones said that this lapse of two years would justify some one's finding and naming it; so I suggested that he find the plant at Alpine for his own collection. Jones on his way back to California visited my good botanical friend, Henry T. Fletcher, at Alpine, and he shared with Jones some of his material of the species. Both Fletcher and I doubt that Jones saw the growing plant in 1930. After the species was published, Jones collected the

plant (April, 1932) around Madera Springs, which is well up in elevation on the north side of the Davis Mountains, where the species occurs in greatest abundance. And that is how the species came to be dedicated to me, whereas I should have preferred naming it myself and dedicating it to its discoverer, my good friend, the late Professor Cottle.

Also on page 21 is the original description of *Nothoscordum texanum,* which description is peculiar in that the type locality is given as "Rodeo, Arizona" (Rodeo is in New Mexico), and the plant has not been found by other collectors in Texas, or at least I have been unable to find it. Jones says of it, "also at Del Rio." On his way to Del Rio, Jones collected *Nothoscordum bivalve* (L.) Britton, which term he uses as synonymous with *N. striatum* Kunth. He gives Rocksprings as the collection site. That species is common throughout that area. Type collection was made on April 8, 1930, near Rodeo, New Mexico ("Arizona"), and it seems to be a good species. I wonder whether I could have seen the new *Nothoscordum* had I accompanied Jones that 17th day of April, 1930. If I missed something I properly regret it.

From page 24, I quote, "*Yucca canaliculata* Hook. This is *Samuela carnerosana* Trel. *Y. Treculiana* Carr. Sierra Blanca, Tex., April 11, 1930 . . . A form about the same as *Samuela Faxoniana* from Indian Hot Springs, April 29, 1930." I have made three yucca surveys in West Texas, hence my interest. As a matter of fact Jones did see *Yucca Faxoniana* (Trel.) Sarg. on his way to Indian Hot Springs, for which confirmation see the story. "The distribution of *Samuela* in Texas," *(Bulletin 33, West Texas Historical and Scientific Society,* Dec. 1, 1930). He could not have seen either *Yucca Treculeana* Carr. *(Y. canaliculata* Hook.) or *Samuela carnerosana* Trel. Again in the following paragraph, "*Yucca rupicola* Scheele. Devil's River, Texas, April 26, 1930," is erroneous, either as to species or as to locality. The locality would rather indicate *Y. Reverchoni* Trel. The date of collection seems also to be erroneous, seeing that he was at Alpine on April 26.

"*Bahia depressa* N. sp . . . Growing on cliffs near the Devil's River, Texas, April 22, 1930." This report on page 31 causes me to recognize *Dyssodia micropoides* (DC.) Loes., which I have collected along the Devils River and

elsewhere in southwestern Texas. Blake, in *"Asteraceae* described by M. E. Jones" *(Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb.*, vol. 29, pt. 2, 1945) from the description alone reaches the same conclusion.

Travels in 1931 and 1932

The botanical travels of M. E. Jones in Texas were continued in both 1931 and 1932, and both added species and discussions of species to his *Contributions to Western Botany No. 18*. In the species found in 1931 the descriptions give neither number nor date, whereas for the year 1932 both are given. *Contribution No. 18* was the last of his publications. This was published in two forms, and I was one of the few botanists who received the form issued at Claremont, California, Aug. 23, 1933, which consisted of pages 25-85. Jones died on June 3, 1934, at which time he had 131 pages in print. His daughter, in printing the complete *Contribution No. 18*, added 26 pages, the date of issue being April, 1935. Only the species appearing on pages 25-85, due to change in rules, were validly published *(Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb.*, vol. 29, 2, p. 124, 1945).

In 1931, Jones arrived at Sonora April 19, remained overnight there, but had a friend telephone me that he would come out to see me in the morning. He came out next afternoon at 1:45, and we visited a neighboring ranch seven miles away. That night eight or ten of the Experiment Station staff gathered in the parlor and supplied an audience that brought out the best of Jones' conversational abilities. For the most part the tales of his experiences were of enthralling interest. In some instances he may have emphasized his independence of spirit or possibly even talked to shock some of the gentler souls among his listeners. There were no women present, so he spoke emphatically about them in general, and one in particular he characterized as being a "champion hellraiser." Certainly contemporary male botanists were unhesitatingly classified as d——d fools. Omitting the adjective and applying it to men in general, not to botanists alone, probably none of us would have taken his statements as out of the ordinary. In an effort at politeness, one of our guests from College Station asked Jones how he liked Texas, and I doubt that any of us have forgotten his reply: "Texas is all right for Mexicans to live in, but a white man should live in California." As probably intended,

this statement stunned his audience, among whom I was the only one who had once resided in California. Fortunately he did not require my support, for I could not have given it to him. The novelty of listening to dramatic delineations of interesting experiences and forceful expressions of unusual opinions delighted his audience throughout the evening, and undoubtedly added to the special interest we had in our noted visitor. The following day I took him over most of the Station pastures and helped him find our more interesting plants (of which I had noted some five hundred species on the five sections of range land). As our shearing season began the morning of April 22 I could not accompany Jones on the remainder of his trip in Texas. We agreed to make plans in advance for the following year with the understanding that I would make every effort to spend as much as two weeks with him in the field. He left early that morning for Sonora and therefrom proceeded on to San Antonio *via* Junction and Kerrville. I am unable to give other information about his travels this year in Texas.

Our Travels Together in 1932

March 21.—Jones arrived at the Experiment Station just before noon. Since his car already was overloaded, I decided to take none of my field equipment, and that I would do as much of his collection work as I possibly could. As he had not mentioned payment of my expenses, I had gone ahead to gain an authorization from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station to absent myself from my regular duties for a period of two weeks for the purpose of accompanying Jones on a botanical field trip. I was willing to do this at my own expense, but probably my actual expenses were allowed. At any rate, I thought that the experience would be highly valuable to me and thus of secondary value to my employers; and therefore the matter of expenses did not merit consideration.

March 22.—On our way to Del Rio, we stopped to go up a narrow draw which cut deeply into the north side of Vinegarone Hill, about 45 miles north of Del Rio by the road. The collections here were found later to have been labelled as "collected at Del Rio," where the vegetation was quite different, as well as the elevation, the soil, and the annual rainfall. That afternoon we drove from Del Rio to

Eagle Pass and on to Carrizo Springs. We stopped to botanize Texquite Creek in Maverick County, and here I found a species of *Amsonia* new to me, and called it to Jones' attention. Here, in jumping across a little channel of water to a sloping bank, Jones suffered a bad fall back into the water. Like myself he was not afflicted with "accidentitis," and could have such experiences without taking harm. I knew our trip would be a success. At the crude tourist cabin that night we used the outer clothing we had worn that day for our pillows. I told Jones of my summer in the chalk hills digging roots of medicinal plants, when we did not wear underwear and our clothes became thoroughly saturated with sweat and could not be used for a pillow. On that occasion, we used our shoes instead, with only a thin quilt between the body and the ground. This was to make it known to Jones that he needn't punish himself to find out whether I could take as much as he could, for I fully realized that he was twenty-eight years older, and that both of us were in good physical condition. I understood his wish to economize on expenses and cooperated.

March 23.—We visited Texas Substation No. 19, nine miles or so north of Carrizo Springs, and collected plants there and at some other places along the road to Laredo. Around Catarina we noticed an abundance of *Actinea odorata* (DC.) Kuntze, the poisonous plant which has caused heavy losses of sheep on the Edwards Plateau, and because of its economic significance I noted its occurrence in localities new to me (Jones' Number 29043, Chacon Creek, Laredo, was also a new locality to me for this species). Two days later I collected this plant twenty miles west of Nuevo Laredo, but did not provide for duplicates, so I have no record of this collection in Mexico. We reached Laredo just before four o'clock, and contacted my friend, V. J. (Jack) Shiner, of the U.S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, who kindly offered to entertain us for the duration of our stay. On a field trip one shies away from luxury, but here Jones and I were to share a large front room in which everything was immaculately clean. At my home the bedding had been clean, too, and I remembered the comments of my wife and mother in this connection, so first of all I cleaned up. I insisted that my companion also bathe and don clean clothes. To my surprise he was persuaded. He

had a clean shirt, and left the former white shirt, now disreputably dirty, on top of a trunk in the room, but he found no trousers, and those he wore were so badly torn that it seemed that something must be done about it. I had with me a newly purchased pair of corduroy trousers, and I persuaded him to make use of them. He wore my trousers the remainder of the trip. After he had returned to California I wrote to ask him to return my trousers. He replied that the trousers were his, and, furthermore, requested me to have the Shiners reimburse him for the cost of his shirt, which was 75c, for it had disappeared while we were at their home. I wrote my friend and learned that his wife had felt that the shirt had been discarded and that as it seemed past redemption it had been chucked into the furnace instead of the washing machine. This sad news was conveyed to Jones along with protestations about his failure to return my trousers. The trousers were returned to me. Some years later, at the Shiner home in Brownsville, we enjoyed a good laugh over these circumstances.

March 24.—Jack Shiner took us to two hills along the Rio Grande near the northern line of Zapata County, about twenty miles southeast of Laredo. These hills are landmarks and loom up commandingly for long distances in that flat country. The highway, then unimproved, ran between these two hills; while the now improved highway runs some distance to the north of them. Of course, I have visited the locality since. Some of the plants were new to me, and Jones revealed the identity of *Gochnatia hypoleuca* A. Gray (and possibly others), and Jack made known to me the identities of some others, of which I remember *Wilcoxia Poselgeri* (Lem.) Britton & Rose, which we collected in bloom. On our return to Laredo we botanized Chacon Creek, and then visited an excellent cactus nursery.

March 25.—On a trip into Mexico, Jack could not use his government car, so we unloaded Jones' car, and with Jack and a Mexican official (Señor Alvare) as pilots, we drove to Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo Leon, and thence out about 2½ miles to the spring (Ojo de Agua) where the Rio Sabinas emerges from the mountains. This spot, at that time, had not been despoiled by the advance of civilization, (a condition which had occurred prior to a subsequent visit, in March, 1937 to get material of a species which now seems

to be lost.) While the others visited and prepared a picnic lunch I botanized, returning to the car with an armful of plants, some of which were new to me. Two of these are mentioned later. A few stops by the way were made on the forenoon trip, but I took so little time that no good botanizing was done. I remember collecting *Dyssodia micropoides* (DC.) Loes. 46 miles west of Nuevo Laredo, and discussing with Jones the nomenclature of the species, which he had mistakenly described in *Contribution No. 17* as a new species, giving it the name of *Bahia depressa.* The sheet of this collection coming to me, No. 29495, was labeled *Hymenatherum gnaphaloides* A. Gray. At any rate, this was better than repeating his previous mistake.

March 26.—It was after nine o'clock when we left Laredo. About four miles north of San Ygnacio, Zapata County, we stopped to collect on high bluffs along the Rio Grande, which I have visited twice subsequently. On low hills in Starr County I was surprised to see a *Hechtia;* for I was familiar with another species of the genus, *H. scariosa* L. B. Smith, which is the dominant vegetation on many hills in the southern portion of the Big Bend of Texas. This Starr County species was new to me, but I learned later that it is *H. Ghiesbreghtii* Lemaire. We spent the night at San Juan.

March 27.—I had been accustomed to paying 15c for half a grapefruit, so I gave my usual order this morning. The waiter told me that a whole grapefruit cost only a nickel, and suggested that I could take care of a whole one. I did. This was my first visit to that area, and I was anxious to learn. After collecting plants at Texas Substation No. 15 we drove on to Point Isabel, now Port Isabel, on the way seeing and collecting *Tillandsia Baileyi* Rose for the first time. I also became acquainted with other species. After satisfying our hunger at Point Isabel we drove to Brownsville, reaching there before four o'clock. It was my earnest desire to contact the local botanist, Robert Runyon, but Jones discouraged this idea. I did not insist. It was our loss, for on subsequent visits Runyon and I have become good friends, and he has been courteous and helpful to the fullest extent.

March 28.—About noon we left Brownsville on the Old Military Road, which we left south of La Feria to return to State Highway 4, which, in turn, we left at Pharr to go

north on State Highway 66 on the way to Falfurrias. Our stops to collect were all north of Edinburg. One stop was at a group of large-leaved live oak trees a mile north of Encino, which we discussed botanically. Jones' specimen was returned to me as No. 29087, *Quercus grisea* Liebm., which at the best was an extremely bad guess. I do not recall that this name was mentioned in our discussion, for that species was well known to me at that time. The incident I do recall was that of our stop at a quarantine station north of Encino, where we were asked by the inspectors whether we had with us any grapefruit. Acting as spokesman I gave a negative answer. The car was full of plant specimens, so they did not investigate. Sufficiently removed from the spot Jones burst forth with a hearty laugh, and then I suddenly recalled that a friend had presented me with some grapefruit. I joined in the laugh, but we did not turn back. I hope I convinced Jones that it was not an intentional lie.

March 29.—We traveled *via* Riviera and Kingsville to Corpus Christi. At one place there was a gorgeous showing of *Castilleja indivisa* Engelm. Here a couple in a car with a New York license had stopped to admire nature's beautiful display of color. They questioned Jones as to the name of this particular plant. He immediately responded with a species of the genus *Chelone*, which, seeing that all the species of this genus are of the eastern or northern states, shocked me with surprise that a western botanist would be familiar with a species occurring outside his field of work. However, his collection from seven miles east of Falfurrias, No. 29168, came to me unnamed. The eastern visitors were properly entertained in conversation and the identity of the plant could mean but little to them in any event. At Corpus Christi we took a tiny, make-shift cottage on the bayside. There was hardly room enough in it for two persons to turn around, and Jones went to work on his specimens. I left to be out of the way and returned that night after he had retired. In this connection I think now of the dark and rainy night well down in Mexico where another man shared a folding cot with me by placing his head at the opposite end of the cot from mine. Both of us slept soundly all night, and it was so warm that we needed no covering.

March 30.—On our way from Corpus Christi to Beeville (about a mile northwest of St. Paul in San Patricio County)

a gorgeous display of *Herbertia* and *Allium* caused us to stop for collection. This was the first time I had seen the *Herbertia,* but our material of this probably was not satisfactorily preserved. The onion, however, came back to me as No. 29074, *Allium mutabile ecristatum,* new variety, the locality of the collection being given as Beeville. I checked this back to Jones as being a good variety. Years later, I visited this site, and found that the tract of native prairie had been placed under cultivation, and there was no *Allium* in all that area. We reached Beeville at noon, and decided to remain over night. We visited Texas Substation No. 1, a few miles east, but found no one there to entertain us or to show us around.

March 31.—We reached the State Agricultural Research Laboratory, about 13 miles southeast of San Antonio, very early in the afternoon, where we became the guests of my co-worker, H. B. Parks. We unloaded the car sufficiently for Parks to come wth us as pilot to the Carrizo Sands on the Bexar-Wilson County line, along which we botanized for a mile or more west of the Kicaster School. We gained additional experience in traveling in deep sand with an automobile.

April 1.—Mr. A. H. Alex of the Station staff took us on a visit to the historical collecting place of Sutherland Springs. Neither Jones nor I had visited these springs previously, and we appreciated the opportunity of making a good collection there. In the afternoon Mr. Parks took us in his Station truck to another area of the Carrizo Sands, where I collected several plants for the first time, including *Prunus texana* A. Dietr. and the onion later described as *Allium Elmendorfi,* which is noted elsewhere. This locality was on the San Antonio River four miles southwest of Elmendorf, Bexar County.

April 2.—Parks showed us around the Witte Museum at San Antonio, and then we drove on to Bandera. Here we drove out ten miles or so to a ranch which I had visited before in connection with a forage-poisoning of cattle. The upper edge of Medina Lake was the site of the trouble. The water level of the lake was considerably lower than it had been, and its higher level was outlined on the surrounding low hills by a belt of *Baccharis neglecta* Britton, the plant suspected of causing the forage poisoning. On our way back

to the tourist cabins at Bandera we collected along the Medina River; there I collected *Chaptalia nutans* (L.) Pol. for the first time (Jones 29432).

April 3.—From Bandera we drove to Medina and thence up Medina Canyon to its head. With some misgivings we started on the road leading up and out of the Canyon, but about a fourth or a third of the way up, desisted and successfully rolled back down to the Canyon floor. We drove back seventeen miles to take the road to Kerrville, now State Highway 16, and from there to return to my headquarters after the absence of thirteen days.

April 4.—Jones left on his return trip to California.

In due course of time a bundle of 314 sheets of plants was received from Jones, and I examined these before sending them on to College Station for deposit in the herbarium of Texas A. & M. College. Ten of these sheets were not named, and of the 304 sheets, 26 were given names that were considered then as being only synonyms. Of the remaining 278 sheets, 118 seemed to me to be incorrectly determined. A typed list of the 314 sheets giving my determination of each and giving his determination when it differed from mine was sent to Jones with notes and comments on the more interesting ones. Of this lot 267 numbers were collected while we were traveling together, and largely were collected by me; 35 of these were collected on our expedition into Mexico, and 232 were collected in Texas. The remaining ones were 27 numbers from Arizona, eight numbers from California, and one each from New Mexico and Oregon. As Jones did for his trip of 1931, the notes and descriptions arising from this trip of 1932 are printed in his *Contributions to Western Botany No. 18*, already mentioned. The comments I here offer refer to numbered pages of this publication.

Page 20. "*Allium Elmendorfi* n. sp. No. 29071. Elemendorf, Texas, April 3, 1932." This was collected April 1, both by H. B. Parks and myself, for Jones did not leave the car at this stop. This onion was in great abundance in a small tract of native grassland at the edge of woods along the San Antonio River. Years later, Parks and I visited the type locality, and found that the grassland had been plowed up, and that there were no plants of *Allium* anywhere in the vicinity. On driving a few miles further south into Wilson

County, we found the same onion in abundance on the northwest slope of a ridge of Carrizo Sands. Sheet 29071 came to me labeled *Allium Elmdorfi,* and my comments were, "Your No. 29071 appears to be a good species, for it has much smaller bulbs than does *A. scaposum* Benth. Should you not call it *Elmendorfi,* because that nearby town is Elmendorf and not Elmdorf?" Since then it seems at least of equal importance to stress the difference in habitat and to note that this species has flowering bulbs that produce from the base several to many stalked bulblets. The suggested correction of name was made by Jones. This is undoubtedly a good species, but it was not validly published by Jones.

Five other collections of onion in Texas are reported by Jones; of these only one was sent to me. Page 21. "*Allium reticulatum* var. *ecristatum* var.nov. No. 29074. Beeville, Tex." Date not given. The sheet coming to me was labeled *Allium mutabile* var. *ecristatum* Jones, which is what should have appeared in *Contribution No. 18.* This has been discussed already. I may add here that I do not recall seeing this onion around Beeville in 1932. This variety (of *A. mutabile)* apparently is a good one, but was not validly published by Jones.

Page 21. "*Encelia lineariloba* n. sp. No. 29410. Laredo, Tex., March 23, 1932." This was collected by myself just south of Milo in Webb County. There was one plant only at the foot of an embankment, and no other plant was collected there. My comment in this connection was to the effect that the material was such that one could not properly place it in its genus, but, were it of the genus *Encelia,* it undoubtedly was a new species. Had the description he gives been available to me, I surely would have placed his plant correctly, for I knew it well in the Trans-Pecos area, where it is considered to be an excellent forage plant. Blake *(Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb.,* vol. 29, pt. 2, 1945) reports this as being *Viguiera stenoloba* Blake. In subsequent visits to this collection site, I found that *Viguiera* had vanished, hence it may have been an accidental introduction and was unable to maintain itself so far outside its natural area of distribution.

Page 22. "*Brickellia Shineri* n. sp. No. 29411, on the Sabino River, Mex., 80 miles west of Laredo, Tex., March 26,

1932." The circumstances of this collection are detailed in the paragraph for March 25. Two similar, but distinct species were collected here. The sheets came to me labeled, "29411, *Brickellia Shineri* Jones" and "29427, *Brickellia cordifolia* Ell." The latter sheet clearly was not *B. cordifolia*, while there was a possibility that the former could be, and I suggested to Jones that he shift his tribute to Jack Shiner to No. 29427. However, he did not send me the description of his new species. From later developments I suspect that he shifted material of these two numbers, rather than shift the name. At any rate Blake finds that the material of 29427 sent to me to be *Eupatorium Parryi* A. Gray, just as he found material of No. 29411 coming to him as being that same species; whereas I know that two distinct species were concerned. Unfortunately Blake does not report seeing other material of 29427, and my material of 29411 apparently was lost after leaving me. On March 28, 1937, I revisited the collection site, but the spring had been converted into an irrigation development, and the former plant habitat no longer existed. I have seen *Eupatorium Parryi* growing only at this one location.

Page 22. "*Tradescantia Texensis* n. sp." As reported, not accompanied by date or collection numbers. C. V. Morton (*Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb.*, vol. 29, pt. 2, 1945) reports the two specimens cited by Jones as being No. 28378, collected April 23, 1931, between Kerrville and San Antonio, and No. 28379, collected April 22, 1931, at Roosevelt, Texas. Without seeing these specimens I am confident that Morton's disposition of them is correct. This is that Jones' No. 28378 is *Tradescantia edwardsiana* Tharp, and his No. 28379 is *Commelinantia anomala* (Torr.) Tharp. I know something about the distribution of these two species and have collected both of them.

Page 36. "Systematic Position of *Synthlipsis*." My species, *Lesquerella lepidota*, was published in *Rhodora*, vol. 32, June, 1930. The first reprint I mailed was to my friend through correspondence, Marcus E. Jones. His reply criticized the term "lepidota" as meaningless for a species of *Lesquerella*. In reply I could only emphasize the point that the new species was characterized by its lepidote capsules, for the related species all had smooth capsules. Was I surprised to read in *Contributions No. 18* the quotation here-

with? "Rose's *Synthlipsis lepidota* is a *Lesquerella*, which I would call *L. lepidota* n. n., a name meaningless in this genus, for leaves are mostly lepidote."

Page 47. "*Peganum Mexicanum* n. sp. Del Rio, Tex." Neither number nor date given. Even though not reported in *Contribution No. 17*, it probably was collected in 1930, for I knew of the supposed species prior to the beginning of our travel together in 1932. As I recall it, this came to my attention in correspondence and interested me very much, for I had collected at and around Del Rio at various times, and had never found a *Peganum*. After leaving Del Rio, March 22, 1932, the thought about this plant returned to my mind, and I urged Jones to show me his new species. Before we reached Eagle Pass he obliged me. As soon as he handed the plant to me I remarked that the plant was quite familiar to me as *Menodora heterophylla* Moric. and that it was not uncommon over the Edwards Plateau. But the plant was still a *Peganum* to Jones, as evidenced in *Contribution No. 18:* "This grows also at Eagle Pass and eastward in loose soil." Since then I have surveyed the occurrence of *Peganum mexicanum* A. Gray and *P. Harmala* L. in Texas, and these are the only species of the genus that I have found.

In various ways Jones and I had much in common, and had respect and could make allowances for the other. Neither of us ever took offense at what the other said or did. Both of us were country boys who had become inured to physical hardships. Both of us had to learn much of our botany the hard way. In our association I had so much to learn from him, that I gave but little thought to the possibility that he might learn something from me. In our first association Jones called to my attention that I had misspelled a certain specific term. There was a twinkle in his eye as he closely regarded me to see how I would take it. I referred to an authority and found that I was wrong, and then turned to him and thanked him for calling the mistake to my attention. Since then I have always spelled the word correctly. I do not recall ever telling him that in the heydey of spelling bees I was the champion speller in a county having 105 school districts (or possibly that was the number of teaching positions in the county, in which there were no cities and only six towns). I thoroughly enjoyed my

association with Jones, and I gained as much from him as a student from an experienced and wise teacher. There is a deep feeling of gratitude on my part to the kindly old man who made our association possible and for us to become personal friends.

A New Palafoxia from the Edwards Plateau of Texas

V. L. Cory

Early in October, 1923, shortly after going to the Ranch Experiment Station at Sonora, Texas (where the vegetation was unfamiliar to me), I accompanied the entomologist on a trip to a ranch between Rio Frio and the Sabinal. On the going trip we drove down the canyon of the West Fork of the Frio. We traveled after a flood, possibly of fifty feet or more of water, which erased all traces of the road, uprooted trees, moved boulders, and made it something of an adventure to pick our way through and down the river. This trip was the first one I had taken, following a flood, and was an excellent introduction to my subsequent travels in southwest Texas. Somewhere on the way, probably in Real County, I saw a single plant of a composite bearing several heads of flowers whose corollas were white and light purple, appearing in bloom as an unusually attractive plant. I took it with me to learn its identity, but did not preserve the specimen. In Small's *Flora of the Southeastern United States,* the plant was located in the genus *Polypteris;* and in the key under the heading "annual; corolla throats obsolete or nearly so; heads homogamous; achenes much broadened upward, less than 6 mm. long." Two species were given under this division: "involucres 10-12-flowered, achenes less than 5 mm. long . . . . *P. callosa*"; and "involucres 20-30-flowered, achenes over 5 mm. long . . . *P. texana.*" Our plant in the number of flowers was *P. texana* and in the length of the achene was *P. callosa.* Apparently it was neither of these species, but (except in the number of flowers in the head) it was more nearly *callosa* than *texana.* As I was not