

It ranges from southern New Mexico, southern Nevada, and southeastern California to Chihuahua, Durango, Coahuila, and western Tamaulipas. *D. pentachaeta* and *D. Thurberi* are very closely related; their ranges overlap extensively, but are not entirely coextensive. *D. Thurberi* is not so variable as *D. pentachaeta*.

I can find no substantial characters to distinguish *D. Thurberi* from *D. Belenidium* (DC.) Macloskie. That species occurs in the arid temperate parts of South America. The only specimen I have seen of it is from Cacheuta, Dep. de Lujan, Argentina, *Palacios, Cuezco, & Balegno 1789* (TEX). *D. Belenidium* is the older name, but I hesitate to submerge *D. Thurberi* in synonymy after having seen so little South American material. It is not improbable that the species is bicentric in distribution; the list of species known to inhabit the arid parts of both American continents is significantly long (Bray, 1900; Johnston, 1940).

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## Theodor Hielscher, Early Texan Naturalist

*S. W. Geiser*

In Dr. Adolf E. Zucker's recent volume<sup>1</sup> on the political refugees of the German Revolution of 1848 in the United States, is printed a brief biographical sketch of Theodor Hielscher, teacher, editor, and naturalist, who lived the last 31 years of his life in Texas. Principally it was lived as that of a teacher in the well-remembered German-English School of San Antonio (1876-79), and as head of the public schools at Eagle Pass on the Rio Grande. Zucker's account (which is compiled from earlier fragmentary references found in the literature)<sup>2</sup> suffers the usual faults of such compilations, being a *mélange* of fact and fiction, with little regard to sequences. This is not in derogation of Zucker's general

<sup>1</sup>A. E. Zucker, ed. *The Forty-Eighters: Political Refugees of the German Revolution of 1848*. New York, Columbia University Press, 1950. [p. 304]

<sup>2</sup>Zucker cites as his authorities: F. I. Herriott, *Trans. Ill. Hist. Soc.*, 1928; Veit Valentin, *Geschichte der deutschen Revolution*, Berlin, 1930, [vol. 2, p. 578]; G. A. Zimmermann, *Deutsch in Amerika*, Chicago, 1892.

work (which is excellent), but is inherent in the nature of the material with which he had to work—indeed, we are grateful for his note, in the absence of a better account based on adequate data.

Hielscher published in *Schuetzes Jahrbuch für Texas, 1883*,<sup>3</sup> some very interesting observations on the occurrence of coal in the neighborhood of Eagle Pass, as well as a notice regarding Pleistocene vertebrate fossils from the same locality. This work was done in the late 'seventies, when he was close to sixty years old. In 1882 Hielscher also sent to the United States National Museum a box of Cretaceous fossils from Eagle Pass. Albert Schuetze<sup>4</sup> recalls him well as "an old bachelor (!) geologist," and some of his former students in the German-English School of San Antonio remember him as possessing a great reputation as a naturalist, especially in the field of botany. At his death, his very extensive collection of minerals was bequeathed to the New Ulm, Minnesota, public schools, where he had been a teacher nearly 40 years before, and there remains as an unbroken collection.<sup>5</sup>

THEODOR HIELSCHER was born on 16 December, 1822, at Nimptsch near Breslau, Silesia; and died at Eagle Pass, Texas, on 11 April, 1907, at the age of 84 years, 3 months, and 25 days. The town of Nimptsch, one of the most ancient of Silesia, lies on the Lohe River, about 29 miles southwest of Breslau. It was one of the few walled towns left in Germany. Here, in his native town, Hielscher attended the *Volksschule*, and perhaps a *Progymnasium*. Doubtless he attended a *Gymnasium* at Breslau; but which of the three Protestant ones existing there, I would have no means of telling. He may also have attended lectures at the University of Breslau. The first certain information at hand indicates that about 1844 he attended Dr. F. A. W. Diesterweg's *Seminar für Stadtschulen* in Berlin,<sup>6</sup> from which he is believed to have graduated—probably in 1847, about the same time that his teacher was dismissed from the directorship of the school, because of liberal opinions. In March of 1848

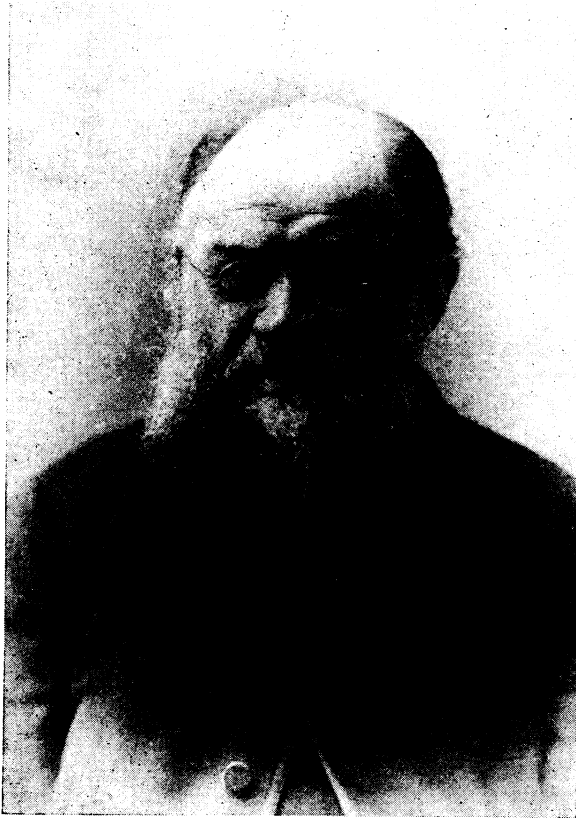
<sup>3</sup>Theodor Hielscher, "Gebirgs-Formationen am Rio Grande bei Eagle Pass, Texas" (*Schuetzes Jahrbuch f. Texas, 1883*, pp. 63-73, 1882).

<sup>4</sup>Albert Schuetze to S.W.G., 29 July, 1939.

<sup>5</sup>Erna F. Holzinger to S.W.G., 1 Nov., 1940. I have never, in herbaria, seen sheets of plants collected by Hielscher, nor in botanical papers citations to any such.

<sup>6</sup>For a brief, readily-accessible account of Dr. Friedrich Adolf Wilhelm Diesterweg (Hielscher's teacher) see A. J. Schem, *Deutsch-amerikanisches Conversations-Lexicon*, s.v. "Diesterweg."

(the 18th and 19th of the month) occurred the revolutionary uprising in Berlin, and in this Hielscher participated. Zucker states that "on March 19, 1848 [Hielscher] commanded King Frederick William IV, 'Remove your hat before these dead!' (the victims of the street-fighting.)" The king complied.<sup>7</sup>



THEODOR HIELSCHER (1822-1907)

As to when Hielscher arrived in the United States, there is conflict of information. Zucker has it "1851"; Charles Hielscher, Theodor's son, has it in 1848. Hielscher went first to New York, and later to Baltimore; but in neither place have I been able to trace him. Our first established record of him after Baltimore is in September, 1853, when he became founder-editor of the *Freie Presse von Indiana*, at Indianapolis, and also a teacher in the "German-English

<sup>7</sup>This anecdote, from whatever printed source, I view with reservations, because in neither of his extended letters to me (24 Aug., 1940; 6 Jan., 1941) on the life of his father did Charles Hielscher mention this episode.

Independent School" there.<sup>8</sup> He remained as editor of the *Freie Presse* from September, 1853 to at least 24 March, 1859—the last date on which his name as editor appears on the mast-head of the paper (although the Indianapolis directories include his occupation as "editor" into their 1860-61 issue). In his *Freie Presse* he had consistently and vigorously espoused views of Free-soilism and opposition to the extension of slavery. Zucker includes Hielscher among 21 "prominent editors" of German-language papers who showed Republican sympathies.

"About 1859" [probably 1860] Hielscher married Julia Evers of Chicago, by whom he had three sons and a daughter.

We find Hielscher in Chicago in 1862, as teacher in a private school, at the same time contributing to the Chicago *Freie-Presse* and the Illinois *Staats-Zeitung*. Here he remained until 1867.

In 1868 he moved to New Ulm, Minnesota, to be "third teacher" in the town schools there,<sup>9</sup> and as a contributor to the New Ulm *Post* (a German-language paper) and to the newly-established (1869) Minneapolis *Freie Presse*. He remained at New Ulm until May, 1871, when he moved to Minneapolis for about five years (1871-76) to edit the *Freie Presse*.

In the fall of 1876 he left Minneapolis for San Antonio, Texas, to be teacher in the German-English School there, in the interval between the principalships of Julius Berends<sup>10</sup> and William Barbeck.<sup>11</sup> Here he remained until 1879; when he removed, finally, to Eagle Pass in Maverick County, on

<sup>8</sup>For an account of the German-English Independent School of Indianapolis, see, *passim*, Theodore Stein, *Historical Sketch of the German-English Independent School of Indianapolis—"Our Old School."* Indianapolis, 1913.

<sup>9</sup>In his letter to me of 24 Aug., 1940, Charles Hielscher states that his father was "superintendent" of the Indianapolis, New Ulm, San Antonio, and Eagle Pass schools. I have stated what are the facts in each case. Miss Erna F. Holzinger, librarian of the New Ulm, Minn., Public Library, was explicit in the facts there as I have given them.

<sup>10</sup>An excellent account of this stout-hearted old 'Forty-Eighter is given in Schem, *s.v.* "Berends." I cannot conceive why Zucker omitted him from his book. Zucker also failed to include two other 'Forty-Eighters—Gustav Theissen and C. N. Riotte—who were pivotal men in the founding of the San Antonio school. (See Jane F. Baskin, "German-American School [1858-97]," in *San Antonio Express*, Mar. 4, 1928.)

<sup>11</sup>William Barbeck (1835-96) was principal of the German-English School in San Antonio from 1880 to the time of his death. He was a competent microscopist—Cassino (1882) lists his special interests as "microscopy and cryptogamic botany, esp. fungi." He was a native of Hamburg; attended a German university (name lost) until his 26th year; came to America about 1869, locating near Philadelphia. He was elected a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (25 May, 1880), his residence being given as "Camden, N. J." On 8 June, 1880, he presented a paper before the academy, "On the Development of Lemna minor" (publ. in the *Proceedings*, 1880, pp. 230-32.) An earlier paper, "Microscopical Fungi infesting our Cereals" was read before the academy the preceding year. It is a highly intelligent, semi-popular account, and was printed in the *American Naturalist*, v. 13, pp. 612-20, 1879. In the summer of 1880 Barbeck left Philadelphia directly for San Antonio.

the Rio Grande. At first his school consisted of one room, in which he taught all the pupils, "from abecedarians to students of Latin, Greek, and the higher mathematics." During the year he induced the patrons of the school to build a two-room, stone school building at the corner of Washington and Garrison streets; and this building, later much enlarged, was still in use for school purposes in 1941. Hielscher taught in the schools of Eagle Pass until the turn of the century, when he was nearly 80 years old.

It has been no antiquarian interest that has indited the foregoing account; nor an easy willingness to "rush into print" in correction of errors in the scanty literature on Hielscher. Rather has it been born of a desire to put on record the life of one of the long procession of German scholars and naturalists who, coming out of the chaos of revolutionary Germany, made clear contributions to cultural advances in frontier Texas.

### **Cenchrus parviceps (Gramineae), a New Species from Southern Texas**

*Lloyd H. Shinnery*

**CENCHRUS parviceps** Shinnery, sp. nov. Perennis anno primo florens, *C. incerto* valde affinis, partibus omnibus minoribus. Caules subdecumbentes vel erecti 6–35 cm. longi. Foliorum supremorum laminae 2–5(–6) cm. longae, foliorum maximorum usque 9 cm. longae. Ligula ca. 1 mm. longa. Spicae brevis internodi mediocres 1.5–4.0 mm. longi. Involucra 3–10 pilosula, diametro maximo 6–10 mm. (spinis inclusis.) HOLOTYPE: 7 miles west of Three Rivers, Live Oak Co., Texas, *Shinnery 16990*, 5 November 1953 (SMU). "Silty clay fencerow. Abundant." Represented in the S.M.U. Herbarium by the following additional specimens, all of the same collector.

ATASCOSA Co.: 9 miles northeast of Pleasanton, sandy loam, *16696*, 10 April 1955; 8.2 miles south of Jourdanton, silty clay loam, *16687*, 10 April 1955. DUVAL Co.: Freer, silt loam, *16647*, 10 April 1955. HIDALGO Co.: 10 miles north of Edinburg, sand, *17905*, 4 February 1954. JIM WELLS Co.: 5.5 miles west of Alice, black silty loam, *24105*, 27 June 1956. LA SALE Co.: Cotulla, red-brown sandy silt, *17276*, 8 November 1953; same place and date, *17277*. LIVE OAK Co.: 5 miles south of George West, gray silty clay, *17011*, 5 November 1953; 1.5 miles south of George West, *19542*, 9 April 1955. MAVERICK Co.: 9.3 miles north of Eagle Pass, silt and limestone gravel, *17327*, 8 November 1953. McMULLEN Co.: 1.7 miles north of Tilden, black clay, *16960*