

Southwestern Localities Visited by Charles Wright

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Southwestern localities visited by Charles Wright

ELMER OTTIS WOOTON

Systematic botanists who have tried to work with the plants collected by Charles Wright in the southwestern portion of the United States, know something of the difficulties arising, (1) from the changes of geographical names which have taken place in that region, and (2) from the fact that very few of the sheets show anything but a single printed label, when one looks for locality data.

Each specimen has a number which is referred to in connection with all those species listed in *Plantae Wrightianae*. Localities are unknown for practically all the other specimens collected. Each plant was collected under its own separate number by Mr. Wright and his field notes containing these numbers are still in existence; but, unfortunately, the plants were not distributed under the collection numbers. Since the labels do not show localities (and sometimes only the year of collection) it is very difficult if not well-nigh impossible to tell where some of the specimens came from in any but the most general way.

The labels for the 1849 collection say "Collected on a journey from San Antonio, Texas, to El Paso, New Mexico," etc., giving the year and the collector's name. At that time New Mexico was a somewhat indefinite area extending from well down in what is now the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, to and including some of southern Colorado, and including some of western Texas, all of Arizona, and a little of Nevada. The El Paso there referred to is not the present Texan city, but is the ancestor, as it were, of the present-day Ciudad de Juarez, just across the Rio Grande from El Paso, and then known as El Paso del Norte.

In making a study of the flora of New Mexico, it has been my fate to meet many of these labels and to wonder (and work for hours without result) as to whence in all that vast expanse a particular plant had come.

Through Dr. Britton I learned of the existence of Wright's

field notes and numbers, and by the kindness of Dr. Robinson I was permitted to copy them. They did not give me all the information I wanted (because the distribution numbers were not the same as the collection numbers) but they did set my mind at rest upon a few major points. These points are as follows:

1. Practically all of the plants of the 1849 collection were gathered in what is now the state of Texas. Wright *may* have entered what is now New Mexico on the return journey between October 12 and October 20, but this is quite doubtful, since the party apparently went down the river to San Elezario* and then turned eastward.

2. The plants obtained on the 1851 trip were mostly collected in New Mexico (about Santa Rita),† though all the time from September 2 to October 4 was spent on a trip through southeastern Arizona and northeastern Sonora.

3. Nearly all the plants collected in 1852 were obtained in Texas. He made a ten days trip to Lakes Gusman and Santa Maria in northern Chihuahua, and another of four or five days to Fort Filmore and the Organ Mountains, in southern New Mexico.

A new difficulty arises here, since the specimens of the 1851 and 1852 collections were sent out under the same printed label and it is not possible to tell which specimens were collected each year.

Some of the sheets of Wright's plants in Herb. Gray have Wright's collection numbers penciled on them by Dr. Gray, and I have had the ambition for years to run through that herbarium and correlate these with the distribution numbers as thoroughly as possible, but have never had the time nor the opportunity. I have been able to make such a correlation in regard to a few species, thanks to the kindness of Dr. Robinson.

It has occurred to me that a list of the places visited and the dates on which he was there might be of service to others as it has been to myself, and such a list is here appended in the hope of its being welcome to some workers. This list was compiled from the notes using Wright's phraseology (and spellings) in the main. Where possible I have combined dates applying to a single locality.

* Map of Mex. Bound. Survey says "San Elceario." Rand and McNally map of Texas, and other recent maps, say "San Elizario."

† Santa Rita del Cobre, the "Cobre" or "Copper Mines" of Wright's notes.

List of localities visited in 1849

Galveston Island,	Ap 28.
Travis County, west of Houston,	My 5.
Prairies near the Brazos,	My 6.
Brazos bottom,	My 7.
Prairies west of Brazos,	My 8.
Near Mill Creek,	My 9.
Cummings Creek,	My 10.
Rutersville,	My 12.
On the Colorado and along it,	My 15, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25.
Austin,	My 23, 24, 25.
San Marcos,	My 27, 28.
On the Blanco,	My 28.
Guadalupe and New Braunfels,	My 29.
San Antonio,	My 30, 31.
Banks of Medina,	Je 1.
Banks of Hondo,	Je 4.
On the Seco,	Je 5.
On the Sabinal and Frio,	Je 6.
Along the Frio,	Je 7.
On the Leona,	Je 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18.
Near the Nueces and westward,	Je 19, 20.
Near Turkey Creek,	Je 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28.
Live Oak Creek and to Las Moras,	Je 29.
Live Oak Creek and Elm Creek,	Je 30.
Las Moras,	Jl 2.
Piedra Pinta,	Jl 3.
Zacate Creek,	Jl 4, 5, 6.
San Felipe, along and at the head,	Jl 7, 9.
San Felipe, spring and near the creek,	Jl 11, 13, 17, 19, 20, 21.
Between San Felipe and the Devil's River and on the latter,	Jl 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, Au 1, 2.
Approaching the Pecos,	Au 11, 12.
Valley of the Pecos,	Au 13, 14.
Plains and hills beyond the Pecos,	Au 15, 16.
Valley 20 miles beyond the Pecos,	Au 17.
30, 40, 60 miles beyond the Pecos,	Au 18, 20,
80 miles beyond the Pecos,	Au 21.
Bed of Limpio and along it,	Au 22, 23, 24.
Pass of Limpio,	Au 24, 25, 26.
Mountains beyond the Limpio,	Au 26, 27, 28.
Mountains toward the Rio Grande,	Au 29, 30.
Mountains 30 to 40 miles from the Rio Grande and on to 10 miles from the Rio Grande,	S 1, 2, 3.
Valley of Rio Grande 60 to 70 miles below El Paso,	S 4, 5.
Valley of Rio Grande 40 to 60 miles below El Paso,	S 6.
Valley of Rio Grande 25 to 30 miles below El Paso,	S 7.
Valley of Rio Grande 8 to 10 miles below El Paso,	S 8.

Valley of Rio Grande 5 miles below El Paso,	S 9, 11.
El Paso, on mountains and in the river bed,	S 12, 16, 17.
From El Paso to San Elezario,	S 18.
San Elezario,	S 22, 24, 25, 26.
About El Paso, Isleta, and San Elezario,	O 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11.
Prairies 6 to 30 miles east of El Paso,	O 12.
Mountains 30 to 40 miles east of El Paso,	O 12, 13, 14.
Guadalupe Mountains,	O 15, 16, 18.
Eastern base of Guadalupe Mountains,	O 18.
Creek tributary to Pecos,	O 20.
Plains between Guadalupe Mountains and the Pecos,	O 20.
Valley of the Pecos,	O 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, N 2.
Margin of Live Oak Creek.	
Devil's River.	
Spring east of Devil's River (15 miles east of crossing).	
San Felipe Creek,	N 12.
Nueces,	N 13.

List of localities visited in 1851

About El Paso,	Jl 4, 5.
About Frontera,	Jl 9, 18, 19.
Rio Grande bottom above Frontera and at the cottonwoods,	Jl 26.
Valley of the Rio Grande below Doña Ana and at Doña Ana,	Jl 28.
From Doña Ana to San Diego,* the crossing of the river,	Jl 29.
Santa Barbara,*	Jl 30.
From Santa Barbara* to Mule Creek and Cook's Spring,	Jl 31.
From Cook's Spring to Mimbres passing Mimbres Mts.,	Au 1.
From Mimbres to Copper Mine Creek,	Au 2.
Copper Mines (along creek, in mountains and ravines near),	Au 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27.
Apache de hoo and Ojo de Vaca, †	Au 28.
Near and at Ojo de Gavilan and on toward Conde's camp, ‡	Au 29.
From Ojo de Gavilan to Conde's camp and at the latter,	Au 31.
About Conde's camp,	S 1.
From Conde's camp to Sauz de Cienega, §	S 2.

* Little Mexican settlements about 25 miles north of Las Cruces.

† Apache de hoo probably is the same as Apache Teju (Tayhoó) near Silver City. The R. R. siding is named Apache Tejo. The correct spelling I am unable to find.

Ojo de Vaca is the present Cow Spring, one of the headquarter ranches of the Victoria Land and Cattle Co. near Silver City.

‡ Ojo de Gavilan is Hawk Spring. Conde's Camp was near the Arizona boundary.

§ Sauz de Cienega should probably be Cienega de Sauz, meaning Willow marsh.

From Sauz de Cienega to the Chiricahui Mts.,*	S 3, 4.
Chiricahui Mts. (sides of),	S 4, 5.
Chiricahui Mts. (pass of and valleys west of),	S 5, 6, 8.
Descending to the San Pedro,	S 8.
San Pedro (on banks and near),	S 9, 10, 11.
Mountain valleys from San Pedro to Santa Cruz, †	S 12.
Valleys of Sonora,	S 13, 14.
Valley of a mountain stream, the Sonoita,	S 14, 15.
On the Sonoita near deserted rancho,	S 15, 16, 17.
Mountains near the San Pedro,	S 18.
Margin of the Barboromori at a deserted rancho,	S 19, 20.
Hillsides from the Barboromori towards Santa Cruz,	S 22, 23.
Valleys near Santa Cruz,	S 23, 24.
About Santa Cruz,	S 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.
Branches of the San Pedro,	S 30, O 1.
Heads of Agua Prieta,	O 1, 2.
San Bernardino,	O 3.
Guadalupe, ‡	O 4, 5.
Valley of the Sierra de Las Animas,	O 5, 6, 7.
Las Playas springs,	O 7.
From Las Playas to Copper Mines,	O 8.
Copper Mines (on mountains, hillsides, along the creek, etc.),	O 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23.
From Cobre to the Mimbres and along the Mimbres,	O 25, 27.
Cobre, on hills and along creek,	O 28, N 1.
Around the hot springs,	N 2.
Bottom of Mimbres and at Cook's Spring,	N 2.
Mule Creek and "Hole in rock,"	N 3.
Bottom of Rio Grande,	N 4, 5, 6.

List of localities visited in 1852

Prairies of the Rio Grande below San Elezario,	F
Hills, stony and sandy, about San Elezario,	Mr 1-14
Stony hills of cañon leading to San Antonio,	Mr 20-22.
Along Rio Grande,	Mr 22-26.
Hills near Frontera,	Mr 26, 27.
Banks of acequia, § etc. at El Paso del Norte,	Mr 27-29.
Near Frontera,	Mr 29.
Across river from Frontera (8 numbers in N. M.?)	Mr 30.
About Frontera,	Mr 31-Ap 5
Near El Paso del Norte,	Ap 5.
About Frontera,	Ap 6-15.

* In Arizona.

† In Sonora, Mexico.

‡ In the extreme southwestern corner of New Mexico.

§ Acequia—irrigating ditch.

|| Frontera was a ranch or small settlement on the east side of the Rio Grande in what is now Texas, a few miles north of El Paso.

* On road to Chihuahua from near El Paso to Cimieliuque Sp. 35 miles south,	Ap 17.
* From Cimieliuque Sp. to the Salado,	Ap 18.
* Valley of the Salado,	Ap 18.
* Salado to Lake Santa Maria,	Ap 19.
* Lake Santa Maria,	Ap 20.
* Lake Gusman,	Ap 21.
* Lake Gusman to Frontera,	Ap 23.
About Frontera,	Ap 24-27.
† Camp Filmore,	Ap 29.
† Organ Mts.,	Ap 29, 30.
Rio Grande bottom,	My 2.
Near Frontera,	My 3-10.
About El Paso del Norte,	My 10-15.
At Frontera,	My 15-18.
Near El Paso,	My 19.
Near San Elezario,	My 25, Je 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 14, 15, and 16.
Rio Grande bottom,	Je 17, 18, 19.
Rio Grande at Eagle Spring,	Je 21.
Eagle Spring to Van Horn's Wells,	Je 22.
Van Horn's Wells to Dead Man's Hole and Rain- Water Creek,	Je 23.
Rain Water Creek to Rock Creek,	Je 24.
Rain Water Creek to Limpio,	Je 25.
Head of the Limpio,	Je 26.
Along the Limpio and to Ojo de Leon,	Je 27.
Leon Spring,	Je 28.
Leon Spring to Comanche Spring,	Je 29.
Comanche Spring to Escondido Spring and along Escondido Creek and on to the Pecos,	Je 30.
Valley of the Pecos,	Jl 1, 2.
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, NEW MEXICO.	

* In northern Chihuahua.

† In southern New Mexico.