

There is a perennial, acaulescent plant of northern habitat which, although admitted by Dr. Gray into his superlatively amplified *Microseris*, is, in my opinion, to be excluded from *Scorzonella*, to which it is more related than to any other recognized genus. The paleæ of its pappus are soft and slender, ending in a sharp, but hardly awn-like point; its involucre has a peculiarity, and the heads are never nodding. The specific name, *troximoides*, was given on account of the close resemblance which the species bears to *Troximon cuspidatum*. But this last-named plant appears to be entirely out of place in *Troximon*; for its pappus is composed, partly of capillary bristles, and partly of very narrow paleæ. My conclusion is, that these two plants will constitute the most perfectly natural genus in the whole group, and I so place them, adopting the name which Dr. Gray coined for sectional use under his *Microseris*.

The form of the akenes in these genera, whether turbinate or cylindrical with truncate apex, or whether more or less attenuate upwards, would seem to be of specific but not generic importance. The basal callosity, although not very seriously taken under consideration by Dr. Gray, appears to have merited more deliberate attention; for, in *Microseris*, as here defined, it manifests a character which runs through all the species, without reappearing in any of the other genera, except that there is a mere hint of it in *Calais*.

The æstivation of the pappus is of one character in all the genera. Whether the paleæ be five, or twice or thrice or four times that number, one is always wholly exterior, and an opposite one interior, while all the others are regularly convolute. In *Microseris* alone the species fall into two quite natural groups by a difference in the expansion of the individual paleæ.

MICROSERSIS, Don.

Involucre oblong-cylindrical to hemispherical, inner bracts in one or two series, equal, acuminate, thin, with

ovate, 2 lines long, tapering abruptly into an awn of the length of the akene.

Monterey to Humboldt County. Common and extremely variable as to the villosity of the paleæ and outer row of akenes.

M. PARISHII.—Rather smaller and more slender than the last; akenes slender, strictly columnar, 2 lines long or more, dark brown; paleæ lanceolate, 3 lines long, very gradually tapering to an awn of a line or a line and a half.

Near San Luis Rey, April, 1881, S. B. Parish; near Tulare, 1882, Dr. C. C. Parry; also collected by the writer near San Diego, 1885.

A very distinct species, evidently belonging to the southern part of the State.

M. ATTENUATA, Greene.—A few inches to a foot and a half high; involucre $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long; akenes 4 lines long, attenuate-fusiform, the narrowed upper half vacant; paleæ oblong-lanceolate, a line and a half long, tipped with an awn of twice that length. Bull. Torr. Club, ix, 111; Gray, l. c., 419.

Near Berkeley, and eastward to the valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin.

***Paleæ straight and flat, 5, except in the last species.*

M. ACUMINATA, Greene.—Size and aspect of the last, the heads an inch long; akenes slenderly fusiform-turbinate, 3 lines long; paleæ 4—5 lines long, lanceolate, very gradually tapering to an awn of 2—3 lines. Bull. Torr. Club, x, 88; Gray, l. c.

Same range as the last species, and rather more common.

M. BIGELOVII, Gray, l. c.—A foot in height, more or less: head about a half inch: akenes oblong-turbinate, hardly 2 lines long: paleæ oblong- to ovate-lanceolate, much smaller