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Vitis labrusca and its westward Distribution.

By E. J. HILL.

Having found this grape the past summer growing wild in the woods of the dune region of Lake and Porter Counties, Ind., the question arose as to its range, since published statements are somewhat contradictory. In the last issue of the "Synoptical Flora of North America" (1897),* Professor Bailey says: "Not known to occur west of eastern New York in the north, but reported from southern Indiana, *Munson*." He remarks on the ease with which it may be confounded with *V. aestivalis*. In the Catalogue of the Plants of Indiana (1881), by the editors of the Botanical Gazette, it is reported from Jefferson County, which is in the southeastern part of the state bordering on the Ohio River. In the "Catalogue of the Flora of Minnesota" (1884) by Warren Upham, it is said to occur "frequently according to *Clark*, in the eastern part of the state as far northward as Pine County (Upper St. Croix), and rarely on the St. Louis River (Head of Lake Superior), Lake Pepin *Miss Manning*." Britton and Brown, in their "Illustrated Flora" (1897), give its range from New England to Minnesota, Georgia and Tennessee. Dr. Engelmann in *The True Grapes of the United States*, 1883,† says of it: "This species usually known as the Fox-Grape, or Northern Fox-Grape, is a native of the Alleghany Mountains and of their eastern slope to the southeast, from New England to South Carolina, where it prefers wet thickets or granitic soil. Here and there it descends along streams to the western slope of the mountains, but it is a stranger to the Mississippi Valley proper." "Large and downy-leaved varieties of *V. aestivalis* are in the west and southwest not rarely mistaken for *Labrusca*." Accordingly in some of his papers on *Vitis* he corrects such determinations as came to his notice.

In another paper the following statement is made: "*V. Labrusca* is our most local species, being confined to the Alleghany Mountains and the region between them and the Atlantic, unknown in the Mississippi Valley or beyond. Whatever has been called so there, or in Louisiana or Texas, is a large and downy-leaved form of *aestivalis*, always readily distinguished by its 'intermittent' tendrils, while *Labrusca* has more or less 'continuous' ten-

* 1: 430.

† Botanical Works, 420.

drils." * Since Dr. Engelmann was a very careful student of this genus, the question may be legitimately asked whether the determinations of the western forms were in all cases correct, and a careful inquiry should be made in those regions where it is said to occur. It is easy to confound *V. aestivalis* with *V. Labrusca* in the dune region if one were to base the determination on some forms of the leaves of the former species. But the arrangement of the tendrils and especially the fruit clearly distinguish the two. I was greatly surprised that it had been overlooked so long in a region which is often visited by collectors, and was at first inclined to regard the vines as escaped from cultivation. But they were found in several localities, covering quite an area in one place, with vines running up on the trees thirty feet or more. But the fruit conformed in all respects to the wild type, and it would be necessary to assume a complete reversion to the wild state to explain their presence in the Lake region by this hypothesis. They were met with both in the dryer sands and damp thickets, the latter taking the greater number seen. As the sands are siliceous the two habitats agree very well with those given by Dr. Engelmann. The fruiting vines were relatively few. The berries were large, even larger than the average Concord grape of the market. Some were slightly depressed-globose, others a little elongated or plum-shaped. They varied in color from black to vinous purple, were without bloom, and though of good flavor and quite palatable they had the tough skin and pulp and the large seeds of the wild form. Some were sent to Prof. L. H. Bailey, who expressed surprise that they were found in this locality.

* Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 6 : 234. 1878.