

THE PRIMROSE-LEAVED VIOLET IN WHITE COUNTY.

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On the afternoon of June 2d last, I started out from Reynolds, Indiana, to add a few specimens to my herbarium. Following the Pennsylvania lines east, I noticed many familiar plants, among them being *Viola lanceolata* L., the lance-leaved violet, growing in great abundance in the wild grass along the right of way. A goodly number of *Viola sagittata* Ait. were often close neighbors to *lanceolata*.

After digging up a few very fine specimens of these two violets I climbed over the fence and went up on one of the sand ridges so characteristic of the country about Reynolds. I had crossed this area very often and knew that *Viola pedata* L., the bird-foot violet, grew here. Only a few of their flowers remained, the seedpods on some being already of good size.

Passing over the edge of this oak-forested sand ridge, I descended into what was once a swamp area. The soil suddenly becomes mucky, mixed with sand and late decayed leaves. Here, to my surprise, I discovered a violet which I had never seen before. I knew it was a violet. I felt sure of that, and so remarked to my two companions. We looked and found more of them nearby. They spread from the lower limit of the sand ridge out to a little beyond a fence-row, covering an area of about 40 by 125 feet.

These violets, which I later found to be *Viola primulifolia* L., the primrose-leaved violet, seemed to seek the shade. Most of them grew along the fence-row in wild grass, together with some weeds and small brush. Those which grew out in the open short grass were low spreading and less succulent plants. The season for flowering was about over and the cleistogamous capsules were making their appearance.

Viola primulifolia L., varies from about 5 cm. to 20 cm. in height, bearing from a few to a dozen or more primrose-like leaves. The plant is stemless, the leaves rising from a medium sized rootstock or runner. The lower leaves are oval to almost round. The upper, larger leaves are ovate,



Viola
Primulifolia L.

—DRAWN FROM A
MOUNTED SPECIMEN—

3/4
NATURAL SIZE

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some oblong-ovate, with acute apexes and long tapering bases. Some of the leaves may be somewhat sub-cordate. Both lower and higher leaves are more or less crenate, mostly glabrous, with slight pubescence along the midrib and the edges of the petiole.

The flowers are small, the largest being hardly a centimeter in width when full blown. The petals are white with several purple stripes on their inner surfaces. The pedicels may be 15 cm. or 18 cm. long or as long as the leaves. One or two small bract-like leaves appear about half way up the pedicels. If two are present they may be opposite each other or a little apart. The various botanies do not mention these structures nor does the

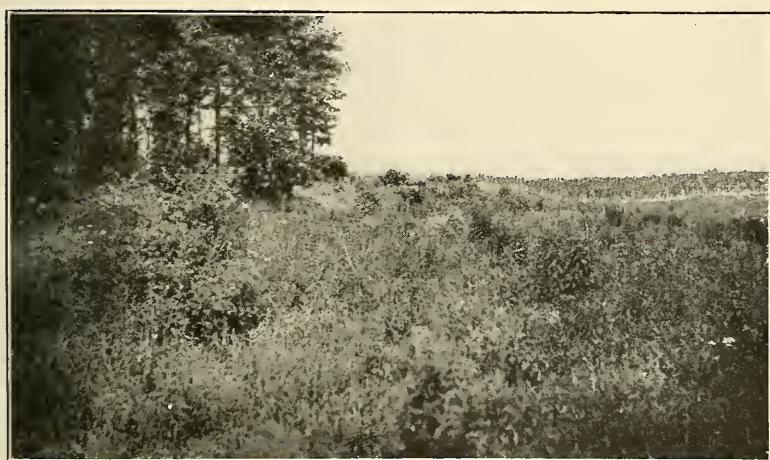
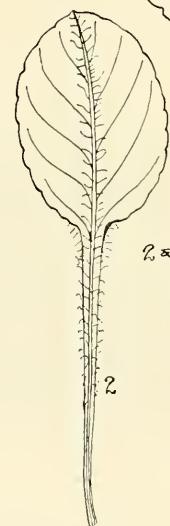
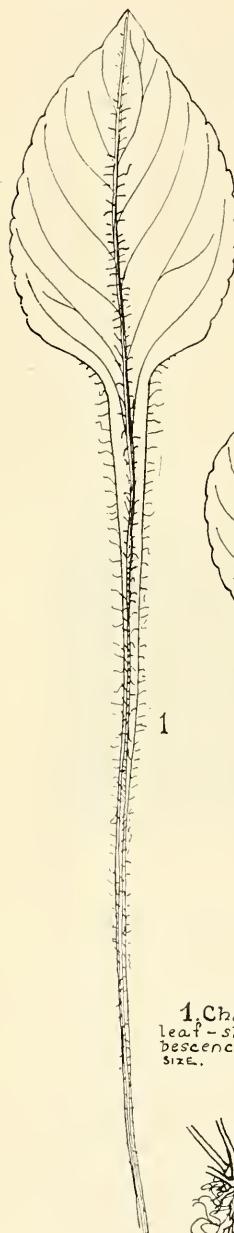


illustration in Britton and Brown show them on this particular violet, although they are shown on a number of the other accaulescent species.

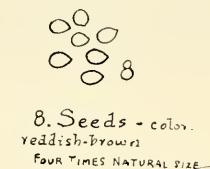
Stolens are common and give off vigorous new plants. The small reddish-brown seeds are scarcely more than a millimeter in length.

Viola primulifolia L., occurs in the eastern United States. Its range is given in the various botanies as in moist or almost dry soil from New Brunswick to Florida along the coast. In so far as I know it has not been reported in any other place in this botanical region. How it happened in White County, Indiana, or how general its distribution here is, I do not know. Mr. Deam, who later visited the place with me, thought it might occur also farther north in the State. I have looked for it, specifically,

SOME DETAILS CONCERNING *VIOLA PRIMULIFOLIA*.



2 & 3 Lower leaves.
showing variation
in outline
NATURAL SIZE.

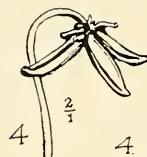


8. Seeds - color.
reddish-brown
FOUR TIMES NATURAL SIZE.

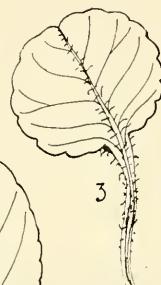
1. Characteristic
leaf - showing pu-
bescence. NATURAL
SIZE.



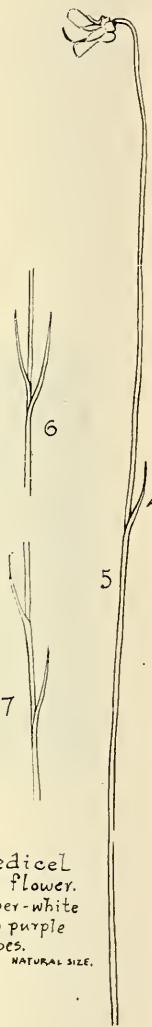
9. Stolen - showing
formation of a new
plant.



4. Seed-pod
bursting.
TWICE NATURAL SIZE.



6-7-5-A Bract-
like leaves on
pedicels - vary-
ing from 0 to 3
in number.



5. Pedicel
and flower.
Flower - white
with purple
stripes.
NATURAL SIZE.

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several times since in different localities where I thought it might occur, but so far have not found it. It was rather abundant in the very limited area during the early summer, but the drouth which followed killed every one of them. At present I have several potted specimens growing nicely along with several other species of violets.

This paper does not aim to give a complete study of the plant. It is intended to give merely a brief account and description of the plant as I know it, and to announce definitely that *Viola primulifolia* L., does occur in Indiana.

