

Castilleja coccinea in the Yellow Form

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In the Flora of Indiana Deam (1) states that *Castilleja coccinea* (Indian Paintbrush) is rare or extinct over most of Indiana but could be found in the northwest part of the state in the borders of sloughs between dunes. He points out that it could be especially abundant in Lake County, and he indicates there had been sporadic reporting from the southwestern part of the state. Plant Distribution Records since that time reports it from Franklin County. (2)

C. coccinea is a member of the Schropulariaceae. Plants of this genus are known for their brightly colored leaves, and it is this characteristic which is distinctive.

The common color indicated by Deam for this species is red, and he states yellow bracts are infrequent. Cronquist and Gleason (3) describe *C. coccinea* as possessing bracts which are mostly or wholly scarlet and rarely pale. Gray's Manual of Botany (4) describes a forma *Lutescens* which is yellow but does not indicate comparative frequency. Peattie (5) says in the Flora of the Indiana Dunes the plant is rare but does not distinguish between yellow and scarlet forms in frequency of occurrence.

The only form found in Lake County in the early summers of 1963-64 was the yellow bracted type. Although this form of the species seemed limited to a small geographical area (about 1 sq. mile) a relative abundance of yellow individuals could be noted.

These plants were found in central Lake County not too far from the northeastern town limits of Schererville, Township-35N; Range, 9 W.

The typical habitat is a moist, sandy prairie predominantly populated by grasses. In one situation a very prosperous colony had located in an overgrown apple orchard.

It was hoped within the broad spectrum of individual variation, a red bracted specimen could be found among the yellow. A few individuals were detected to range from slightly tinged with red to deeply tinged. Although these individuals were rare, some nearly approached a reddish-orange. They were, however, still so much nearer the yellow form that they could not be mistaken for red or scarlet.

Since the red form was found and photographed in neighboring Porter County, it may be assumed that the red form could exist in Lake County.

Literature Cited

1. Deam, Charles C. 1940. Flora of Indiana. Department of Conservation, State of Indiana.
2. Indiana Plant Distribution Records, VIII. 1947. Proc. of the Ind. Acad. of Sci. 57:85.
3. Gleason, Henry A. and Arthur Cronquist. 1963. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada.
4. Fernald, Merritt L. 1950. Gray's Manual of Botany. 8th Ed.
5. Peattie, Donald C. 1930. Flora of the Indiana Dunes. Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.