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A. A. HELLER & P. BEVERIDGE KENNEDY

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Editors: A. A. Heller and P. Beveridge Kennedy

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Mimulus implexus Greene

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University of Nevada,
Reno, Nevada

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STUDIES IN THE GENUS ERYTHROCOMA Greene—I.

By C. P. Smith

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Introduction.—In June, 1909, I collected a plant of striking characters, new to me, on the hillsides above Cache Junction, Utah. The plant was in full fruit, and the prominent, plumose, persistent styles led me readily to determine it as *Geum ciliatum* Pursh, as treated in the meager literature then at hand. The flowers present seemed withered and belated, so caused me no concern, and no critical study of the material seemed necessary.

On May 1, 1911, while making a trip over the same hills, the plant was again secured, at this date being mostly in bud, but with sufficient material in full flower to make a satisfactory

collection. It was then noticed, with surprise, that the petals were really yellow, more or less red-veined and margined, not at all "purplish," as I had expected from the book descriptions. This observation led me into a more careful study of the plant, and later, upon examining critically my specimens of 1909, I was much surprised to find that the plumose styles were positively, tho inconspicuously, bent and jointed, much after the manner of *Geum* proper. As this character would seemingly disqualify my plant as a member of the genus *Sieversia*, of authors, I concluded that it was unknown to science, in fact, a worthy connecting link between the *Sieversia* species and typical *Geum*. A description was accordingly prepared and included in my notes for a paper then about ready for publication. Happily, however, I learned of Dr. Greene's recent paper (**12**) on *Sieversia* segregates in time to prevent the publication of my description and name; and so the matter has rested until the present time.

Recently, access was had to Greene's paper referred to above, and tho I felt sure that my plant must be accounted for in such an assemblage of described forms, I was unable to make a satisfactory determination. As Dr. Greene made no mention of variations as to the "unjointed" character of the style, and as I had observed decided variations in this respect amongst the plants in the *Geum ciliatum* and *G. triflorum* covers in the herbarium of Cornell University, my interest in the matter was again aroused, and opportunity was sought to investigate the real status of the variations observed.

Material examined.—Thru the kindness of Professors Whetzel and Rowlee of Cornell University, and of Dr. Rose and the authorities of the U. S. National Museum, there are now before me some 150 specimens of the genus *Erythrocoma* Greene, 130 specimens, including 20 type sheets, from the National Herbarium, and some 20 specimens from the herbarium of Cornell University. With this material before me, I am able to come to some conclusions which may be of interest to various students of systematic botany, especially as my conclusions are