

**A NORTH AMERICAN SPECIMEN OF *TROPAEOLUM PEREGRINUM*  
(TROPAEOLACEAE)**

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**ABSTRACT**

A specimen of *Tropaeolum peregrinum* was collected from a beach of Devils Lake, North Dakota in July 1990 and deposited in the Olga Lakela Herbarium (DUL). This ornamental annual, native to the Andes Mountains, has apparently not been reported from outside of cultivation in North America north of Mexico. Major increases in the lake level soon submerged the likely collection sites. A search of the vicinities of those sites in July 2016 found no evidence of this species.

*Tropaeolum peregrinum* L., canary-bird flower or canary creeper, is thought to be native to the Peruvian Andes at 2500–3600 m elevations (Sparre & Andersson 1991). Planted as an annual for attractive yellow flowers and fast-climbing foliage, it seems not to have been reported from outside of cultivation in the continental United States or Canada (Tucker 2010; Kartesz 2015). I report the following collection for this species.

**North Dakota.** Ramsey Co.: lakeshore park on Devils Lake, sandy beach, probable escape from cultivation, 22 Jul 1990, *Monson 6308* (DUL).

The field notes from Paul H. Monson (1925–2003) have no additional information for this species there, lack further locational details for the other taxa that he collected at the same beach (as do their specimen labels), and indicate that specimens were not distributed to other herbaria. The single sheet has two pieces of shoot mounted on it, each with flowers and leaves, totaling about 30 cm long, with no roots. The combination of lobed leaves, deeply lobed petals, and hooked spur of the calyx is diagnostic (Sparre & Andersson 1991).

Beginning in 1993 the lake surface rose rapidly to be about 6 meters higher in 2000 than it was in 1990, then rose another 2.5 m or so before falling to be about 8 meters higher in July 2016 than it was in 1990 (USGS 2016). On 20 July 2016 I visited known current or former public sandy beach access sites on the Ramsey County side of Devils Lake, as inferred from maps, aerial images, and local inquiry. There were only two such sites, both of which have their former access roads permanently closed because of high water. I did not find *Tropaeolum peregrinum* at either of them, between the water's edge and the paved roads open to the public. The species could reasonably be regarded as extirpated there. Despite its widespread cultivation, *T. peregrinum* was not known by Sparre and Andersson (1991) to be naturalized outside of Peru, but it has more recently been recognized as naturalized in Europe (Clement & Foster 1994; Alanen et al. 2004).

**LITERATURE CITED**

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