

# Northwest wildflower

soil is shallow and of a fine sandy composition, moisture retention is minimal and whatever grows here must have considerable drought resistance. This type of habitat is referred to as "xeric" or dry-land habitat, and is atypical for the north Willamette Valley region. In this atypical habitat one finds atypical plants.

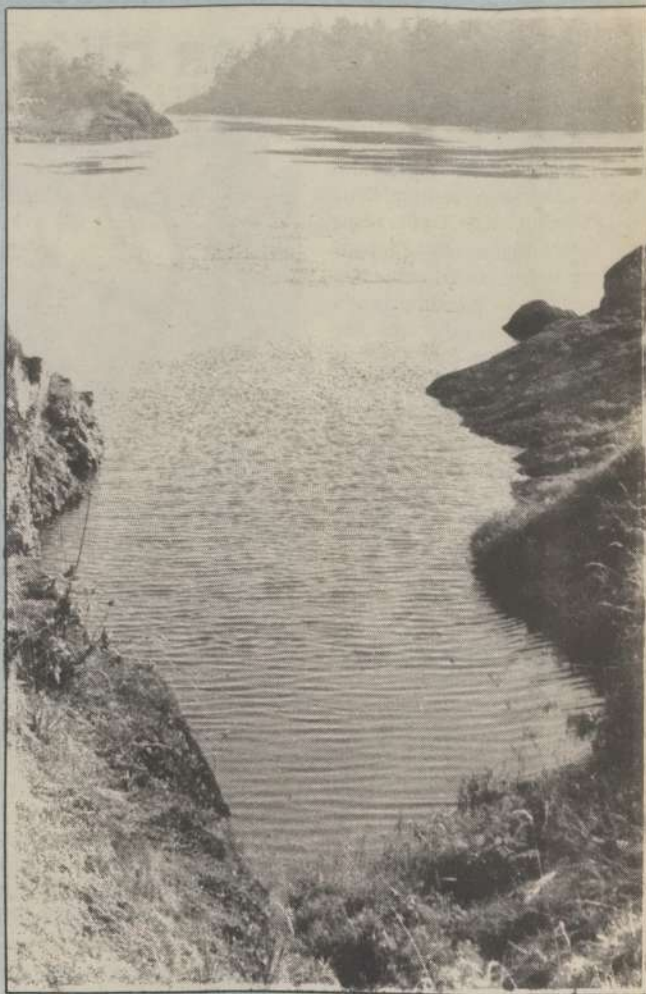
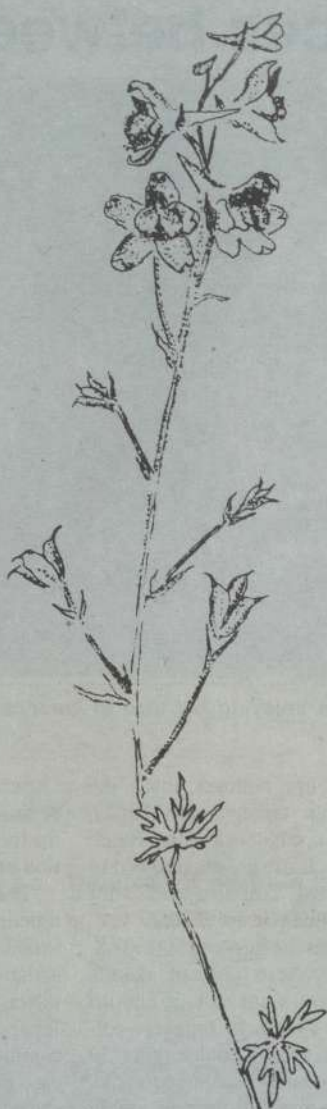
Misley mentioned that among other types of plant life, "one will encounter wild buckwheat, Oregon sunshine, golden aster, parsley fern, saxifrages, and sedums." A few gnarled and scrubby trees grow out of the rock formations, mostly garry oak and madrone. The non-native scotch broom also grows here and unfortunately, competes quite successfully with native ceanothus and kinnikinnik. Poison Oak grows everywhere.

Not all of the islands are rocky. On part of the main island there is a small forested area comprised mostly of oak, ash, and douglas fir. There are also small inlets of water and low areas of silt accumulation where the more usual riverside vegetation grows.

"This research proj-

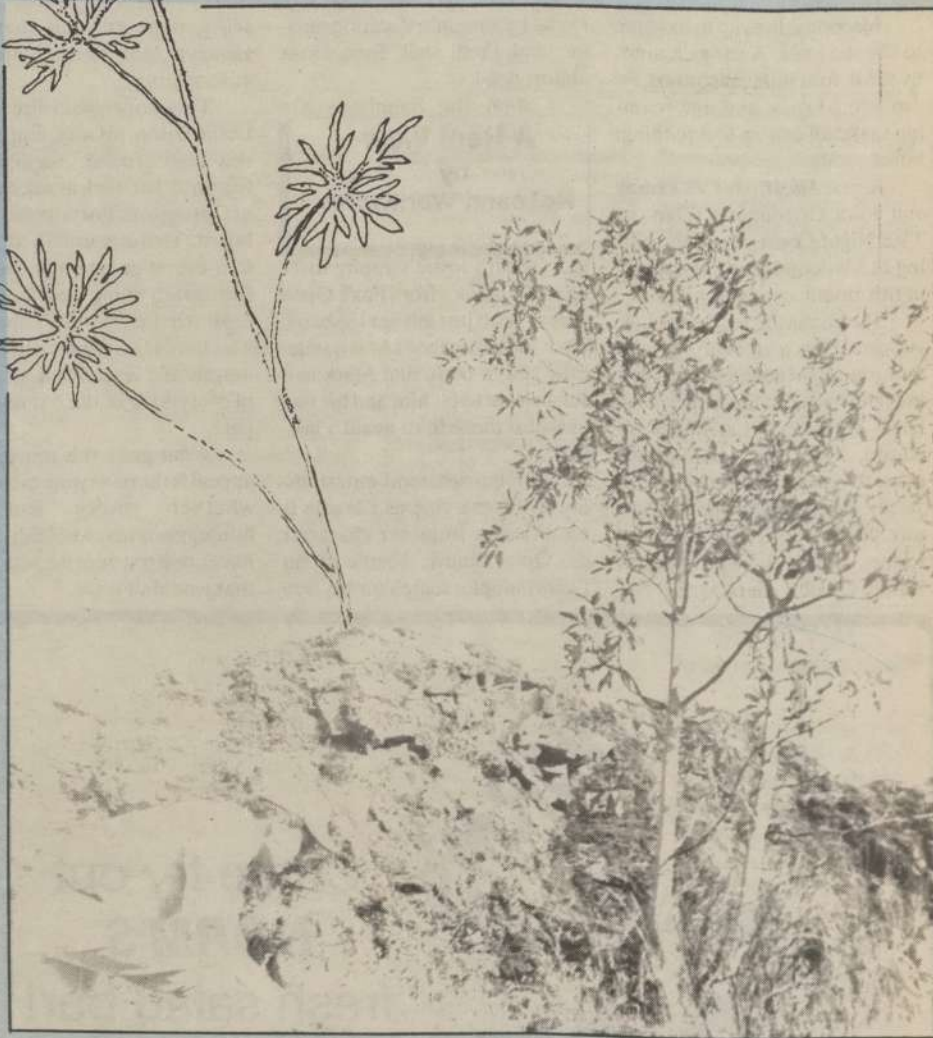
ect is a long term study that will continue for several years. The resultant information should do much to influence the pale larkspur's status. In other words, this plant is currently a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act." Another project included in his work on the island includes a species list of all seed producing plants. This part should be concluded by spring. With a sly and humorous intonation, he then added that he wants to make up a species list for "dickie birds and small mammalian types."

When asked concerning the value of preserving the pale larkspur, Misley stated that "in nature, extinction is forever, thus the genetics of a unique life-form is completely snuffed out, never to return again. Even from a standpoint of pure practicality, who knows what biochemical substance that may be unique to a particular species would eventually have been discovered which would cure cancer or in some other way have been of a great benefit to mankind."



One of several rocky inlets on the island.

*Delphinium leucophaeum*



Bob Misley evaluates the seed crop of the delphinium and gathers fertility data of seed production.

Photos provided by Bob Misley

The author assists in reviewing notes on local flora.

centimeters

16 (M)	17	18 (B)	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
49.25	38.62	28.86	16.19	8.29	3.44	31.41	72.46	72.95	29.37	54.91	43.96	82.74	52.79	50.87
-0.16	-0.18	0.54	-0.05	-0.81	-0.23	20.98	-24.45	16.83	13.06	-38.91	52.00	3.45	50.88	-27.17
0.01	-0.04	0.60	0.73	0.19	0.49	-19.43	55.93	68.80	-49.49	30.77	30.01	81.29	-12.72	-29.46
0.75	0.98	1.24	1.67	2.04	2.42									L*
						SN: P0013								a*
						Colors by Munsell Color Services Lab								b*

Don Williams