poles with the sides of some dry goods box for blades. They indicate the remarkable dearth of wood in the region.

They are weird little craft, and add one more use to the list of things which can be made from this remarkable desert palm.—DAVID G. FAIRCHILD, *Agricultural Explorer, U. S. Department of Agriculture.*

A VARIABLE LARKSPUR.

THE genus *Delphinium*, both in the Rocky mountains and in California, runs into numerous local races or species. Formerly these were classified under a few specific names, but this method had the unfortunate result of grouping together without distinction very diverse plants. Now we are going to the opposite extreme, and the list of species is becoming very long. In all probability we shall eventually come to regard the majority of the distinguishable forms as subspecies or races only ; but for the present the chief aim is to separate the different plants, whether or not we can reach final conclusions regarding their status. Whatever the nomenclatural outcome, there will evidently be much to interest the student of evolution.

In the Sapello cañon, Las Vegas range, New Mexico, a peculiar and variable *Delphinium* is very abundant. The writer in 1900 described it as a new species, but the description was not immediately published, and presently many new species were recorded from Colorado and elsewhere, so that the subject became complicated. The plant was clearly related to *D. occidentale*, and it seemed possible that it might be a southern form of *D. multiflorum* Rydberg 1902. I sent specimens representing the variations to Professor Aven Nelson, who has an intimate field knowledge of the Rocky mountain larkspurs, and he fails to recognize the plant, remarking that it is "certainly a fine species." He also agrees with me that the specimens sent are all of one species. Under these circumstances it seems desirable to publish a description.

***Delphinium sapellonis*, n. sp.**—Strict, up to six feet high : leaves tripartite, the lateral divisions large, and themselves almost tripartite : flowers very dull-colored : spurs obliquely ascending, slightly curved downwards, dark purple above, green below, varying to all pale with a dark purple line above : sepals brownish or greenish-white, veined with purple : anthers with an indigo-blue longitudinal band : lower petals purple, with their apical lobes pale, with light yellow hairs : pods with a short but rather dense glandular pubescence : upper part

of stem densely glandular-pubescent: flowers more or less glandular-pubescent.—Beulah, Sapello cañon, described from life, Aug. 11, 1900. The following are variations:

(a) Lower, about three feet high; *heads in bud erect*; truncate; *buds pale green*, nodding, the uppermost transverse; spur about 9^{mm} long, rather slender and pointed; *linear bracts never reaching beyond middle of bud*, in most flowers shorter than peduncles; lower part of stem glabrous, with a whitish bloom, upper part and inflorescence glandular-pubescent.—Beulah, July 27, 1902.

(b) Tall; *heads in bud nodding*, tapering; *buds, including spur, very dark purplish*; spur obliquely truncate; *linear bracts far surpassing buds*.—Beulah, July 27.

(c) *Heads in bud erect*; *buds dark purple*; spur rounded, broad and thick; *linear bracts not surpassing buds*, little longer than peduncles.—Beulah, July 29.

These apparently distinct forms are connected by plenty of intermediates, and often grow together.

A specimen of *D. sapellonis* has been placed in the U. S. National Museum.—T. D. A. COCKERELL, *East Las Vegas, N. M.*