

Genus in the lichen family named for Dr. Carl L. Hubbs

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Although in his 38-year career as a marine biologist he has had several fishes-- a whale, a fossil bird, spiders, centipedes, marine algae, snails, an octopus, crabs, and a waterless Nevada lake named after him--only now has a genus in the lichen family been designated to bear the name of Dr. Carl L. Hubbs, professor of biology of the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Hubbsia Weber lumbricoides is the new genus in the lichen family Roccellaceae collected by Dr. William A. Weber, curator of the University of Colorado's Herbarium, during the April, 1963, Scripps expedition to Guadalupe Island, Baja California.

A specialist in lichens and mosses, Dr. Weber was Dr. Hubbs' guest on the expedition. Dr. Weber discovered the lichen-- there is no reason to believe that it occurs elsewhere-- tramping the island while Scripps scientists were conducting their marine research at sea, and eventually named it for Dr. Hubbs.

Dr. Hubbs, world-known authority on fishes, is also a naturalist who has been active in the scientific exploration of Guadalupe Island. He has made important studies of its vanishing inhabitants, including the fur seal, the northern elephant seal, and several species of rare nesting birds of the high seas. His enthusiasm for the island has led him to make it possible, through numerous expeditions, for scientists of many disciplines to visit the island to study its fauna and flora.

It was his fascination for the unique lichen flora, perhaps the dominant vegetational feature of Guadalupe Island, that prompted Dr. Hubbs to invite Dr. Weber to accompany the 1963 expedition, during which he spent ten days making collections. The Scripps expedition and Dr. Weber's studies were made possible in part through National Science Foundation grants.

Guadalupe Island, about 150 miles west of the Lower California coast and 240 miles south of San Diego, rises gently from the south and east to a height, near the northern end, of about 4,500 feet. Precipitous cliffs, fog, and hazardous seas make the north and west coasts almost inaccessible.