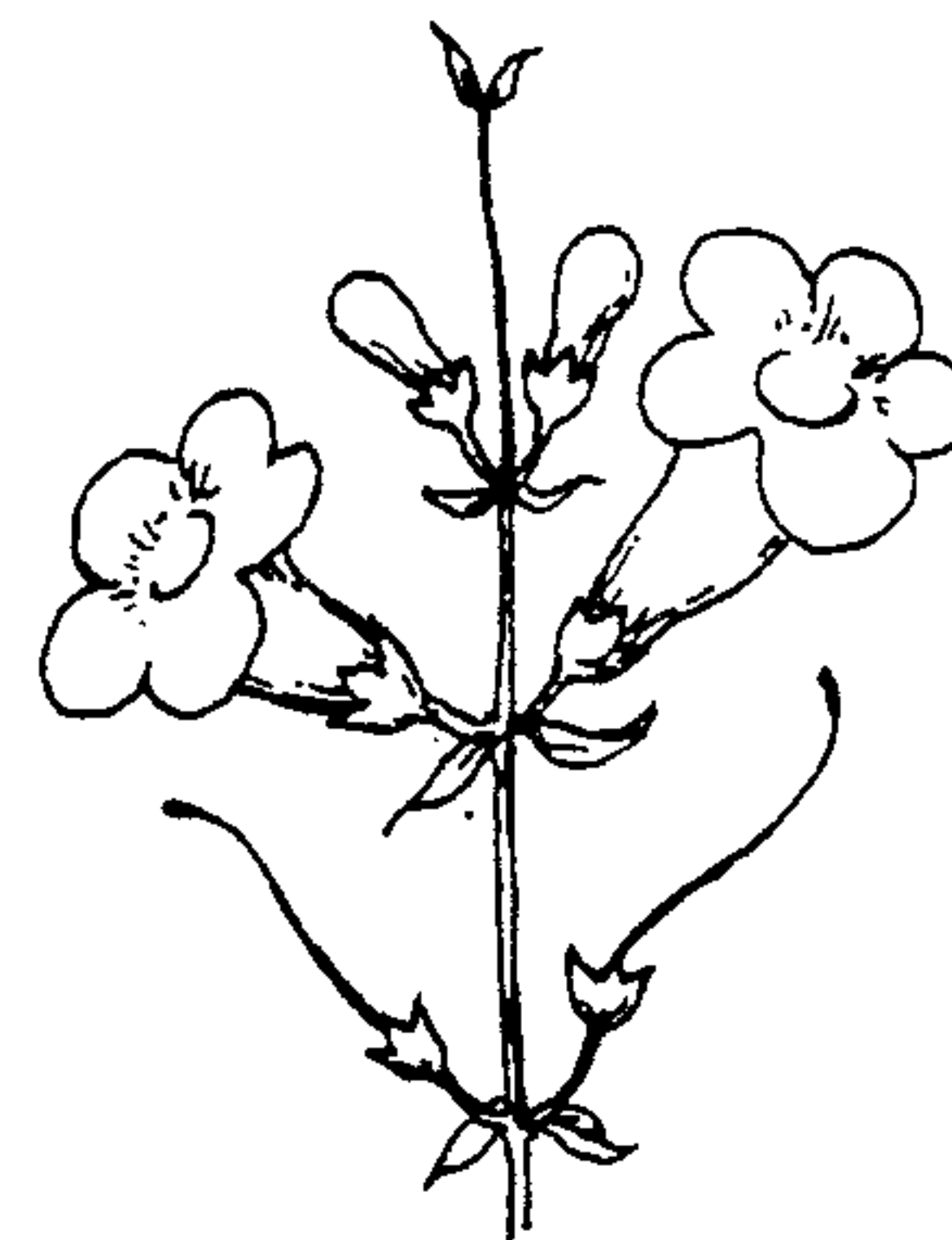


# LOOK AGAIN !

Although some of our regional guide books describe both yellow- and pink-flowered plants as belonging to the genus Gerardia, it makes things easier if we follow the more recent taxonomic treatment that places both groups in other genera--namely, Aureolaria and Agalinis, respectively. It is the former, all known as False Foxgloves, that we are considering here.

The first three species are erect perennials, sparingly branched if at all, bearing 1½" slightly irregular campanulate flowers with five spreading lobes, in terminal racemes. The upper leaves are small and for the most part entire; the principal lower ones, which afford the best means of distinguishing species, can at the same time be annoyingly variable.

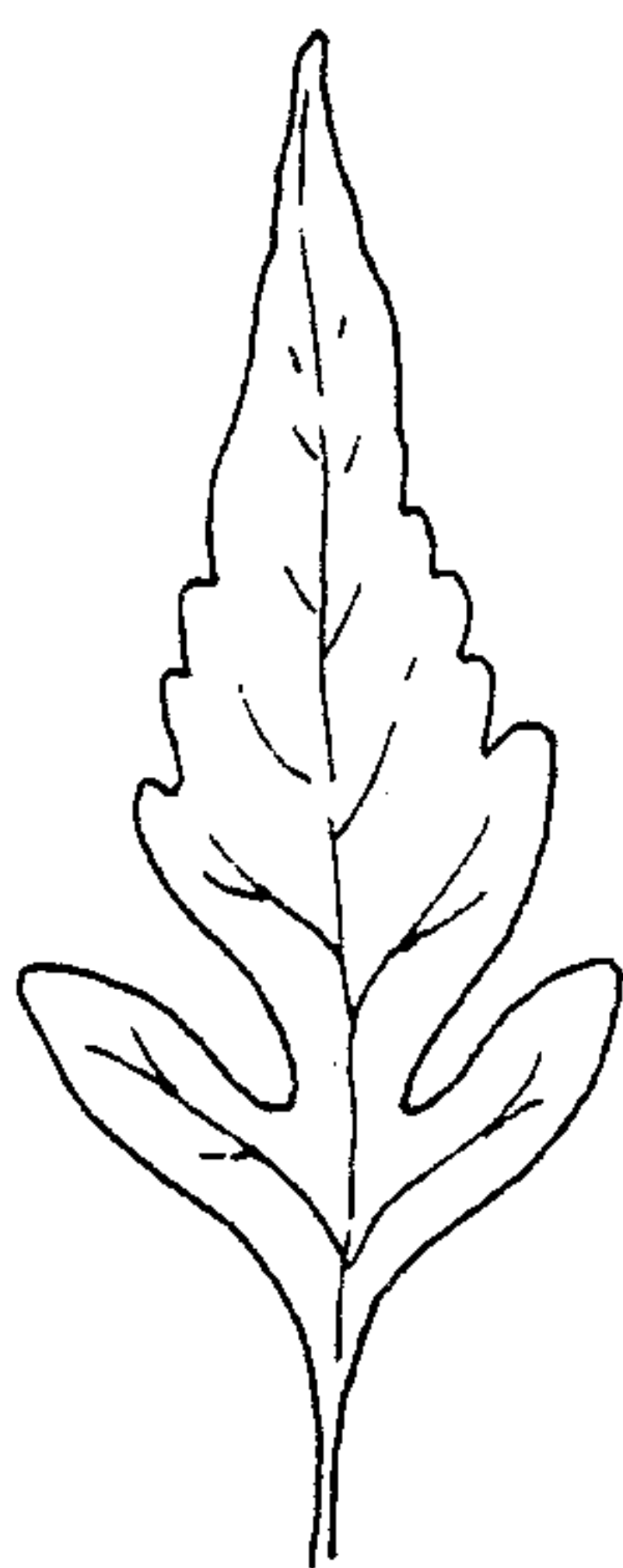
Downy False Foxglove (A. virginica) has a soft, grayish pubescence. Its leaves have a few large lobes below the middle and smaller ones above, all blunt. Smooth False Foxglove (A. laevigata) has a smooth, shiny green stem, and the main leaves are entire or at most have a few shallow lobes or teeth. Yellow False Foxglove (A. flava) also is smooth-stemmed but it is glaucous and purplish. The leaves are pinnately lobed or cleft into pointed segments. Its



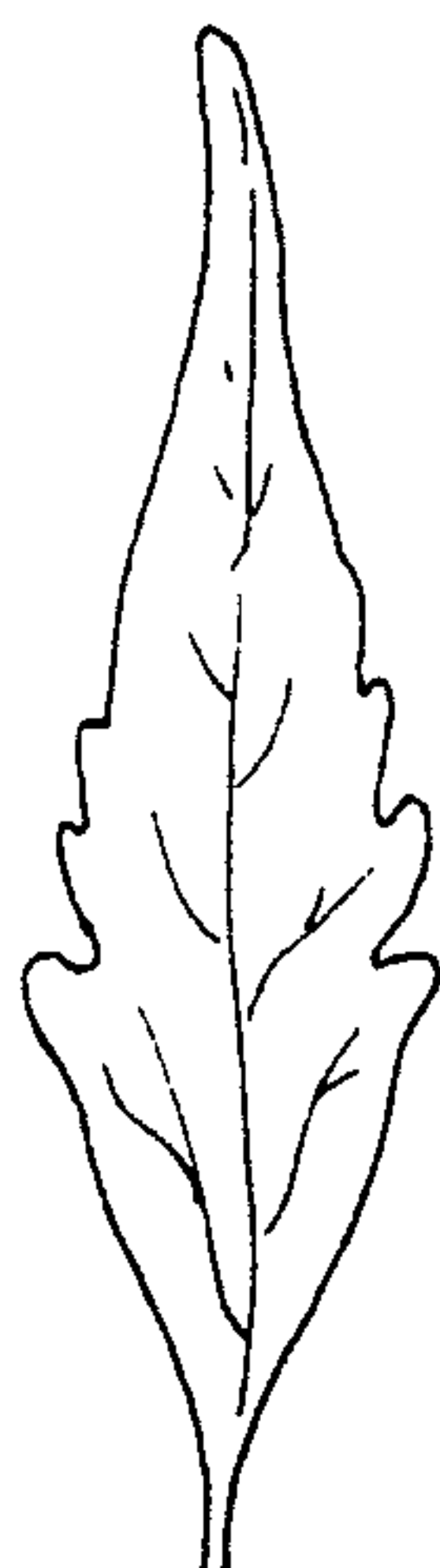
AUREOLARIA FLAVA

pedicels differ from those of the other two species in being longer than ¼" and curved rather than straight.

Our other representative is Fern-leaved False Foxglove (A. pedicularis). This is a much-branched annual with axillary flowers, and is instantly recognizable by its sticky glandular hairs. The leaves are smaller and once- or twice-pinnate with irregularly toothed margins.



A. VIRGINICA



A. LAEVIGATA



A. FLAVA

*Dick Smith*