



onestar press

onestar press terri weifenbach the politics of flowers



The Politics of Flowers





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THE
POLITICS
OF
FLOWERS

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Terri Weifenbach





Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, Palestine.

February 12, 1898.

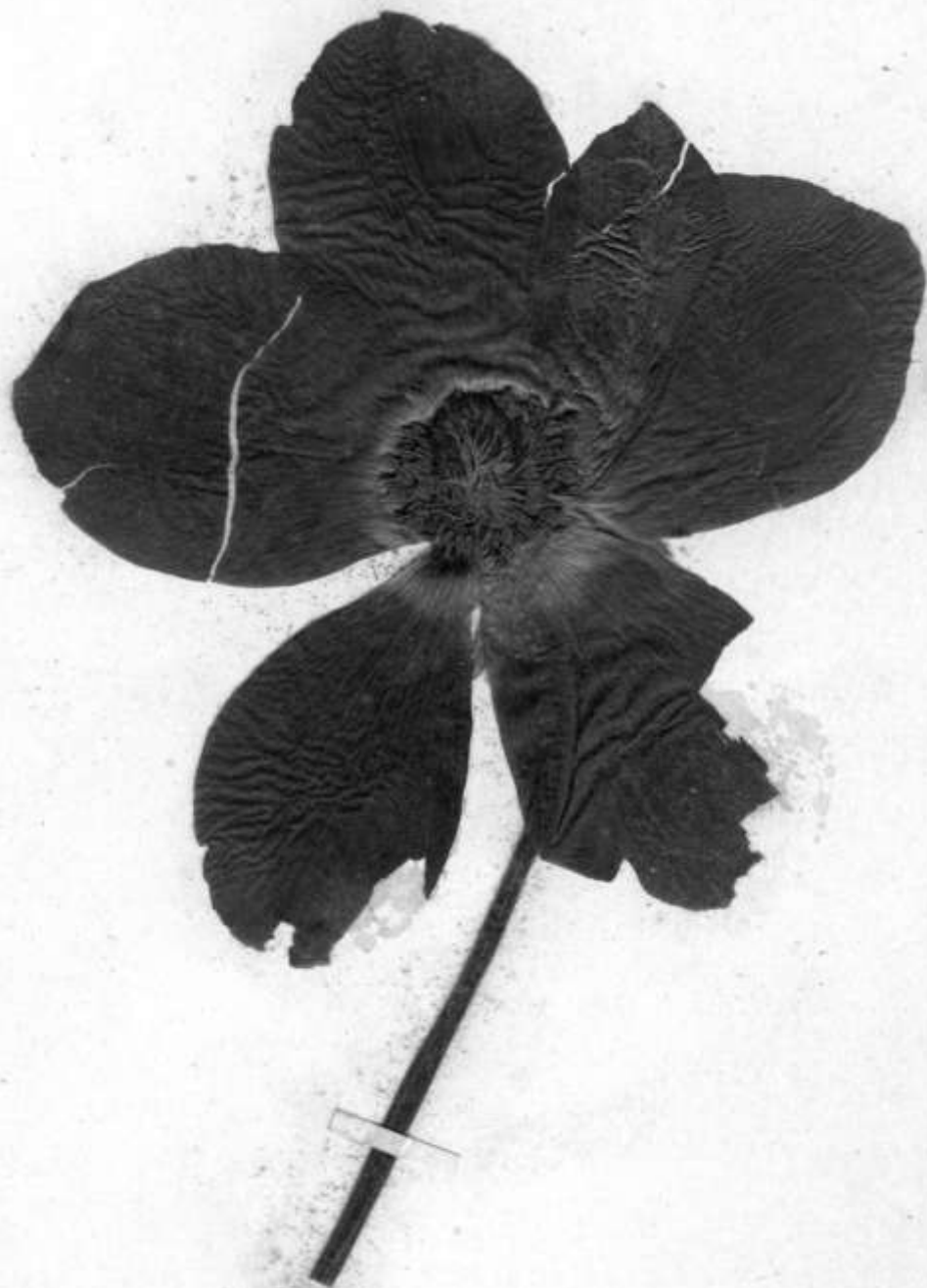
I take pleasure in stating that Mr. H. B. Greene, has spent three springs, in gathering and pressing the flowers of Palestine, during which time he made with the assistance of native helpers, large collections of the wild flowers, and I feel sure that these flowers he now offers for sale, really grew in the Christ Land.

Delahouille

U. S. CONSUL (at Jerusalem).







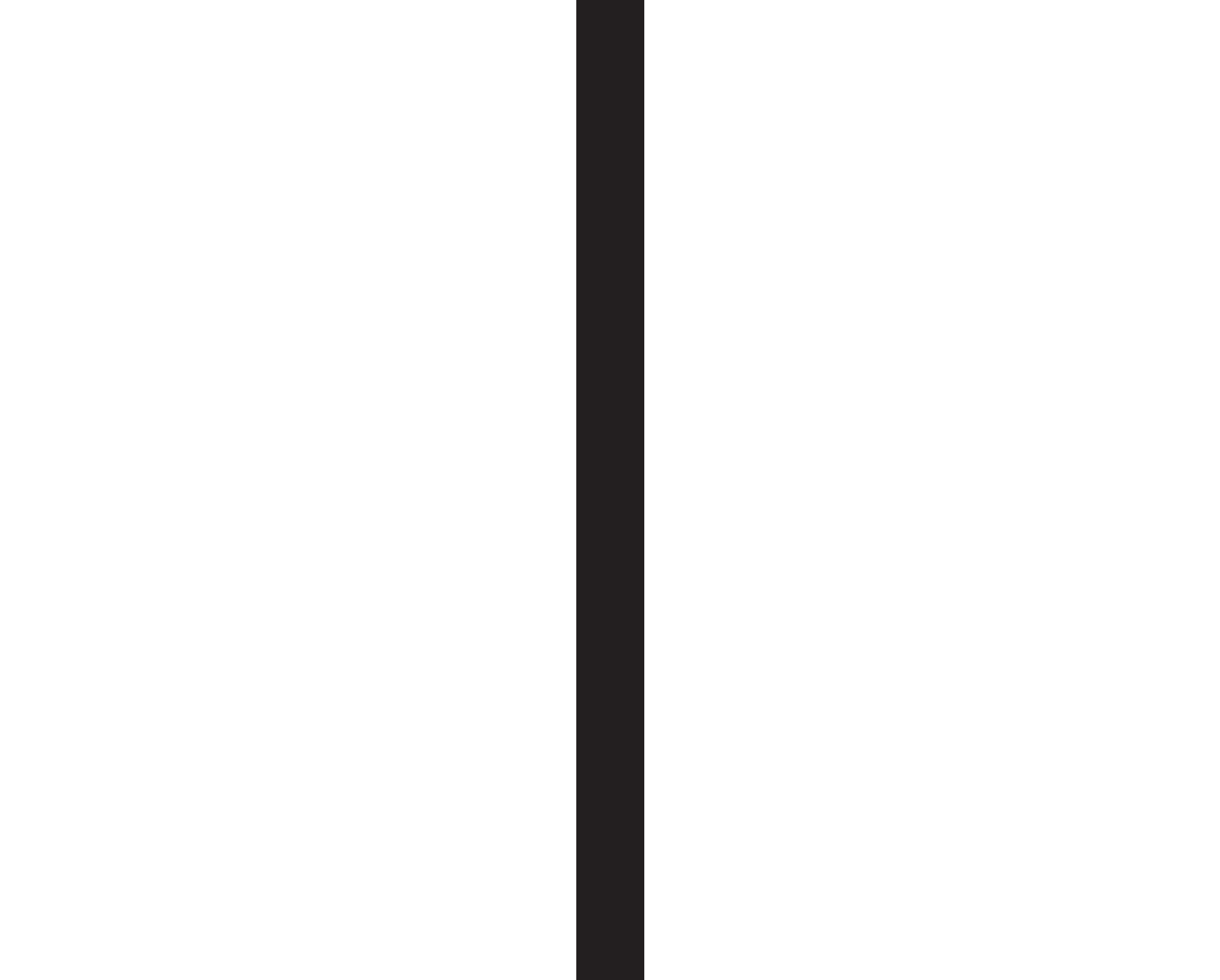




THE FLORA OF PALESTINE

Palestine, although small in the number of its square miles, contains within its borders three distinct regions, each with its own peculiar soil, climate and flowers. **The Coast Region** extending from Mt. Carmel to the southern desert and from the Mediterranean Sea to the blue hills of Judea, is the granary of the country, and in the spring, with its waving wheat and barley, looks like the restless sea.

This plain is the Sharon of the Bible, the most fertile part of which belonged to the Philistines. Along every highway, in every uncultivated field, and among the rolling hills at its northern end, abound wild flowers, flowers for the most part strange to the pilgrim. For trees, the palm and orange are distinctive, while the olive, almond and oak are common. In the early spring (our winter), the crocus, tulip and narcissus, which are like those in American gardens, can be found in all the fields. While the *Anemone Coronaria*, the "Lily of the







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Field," with its scarlet, blue or white petals, colours whole acres in bright array. Orchids, squills, lupines, pheasant's eye, mustard, flowers too numerous to mention, go to complete the list. By the streams the oleander and myrtle grow, while in a great marsh near the site of the ancient Roman city of Antipatris, where Paul spent a night while on his way to Caesarea, is found the now rare *Cyperus Papyrus*, the famous papyrus of Egypt, the reed from which the ancient manuscripts were made. A marsh by the waters of Merom, in Galilee, is the only other place in Asia where it is now found. The papyrus is now extinct in Egypt, where it once grew like a forest on the banks of the Nile.

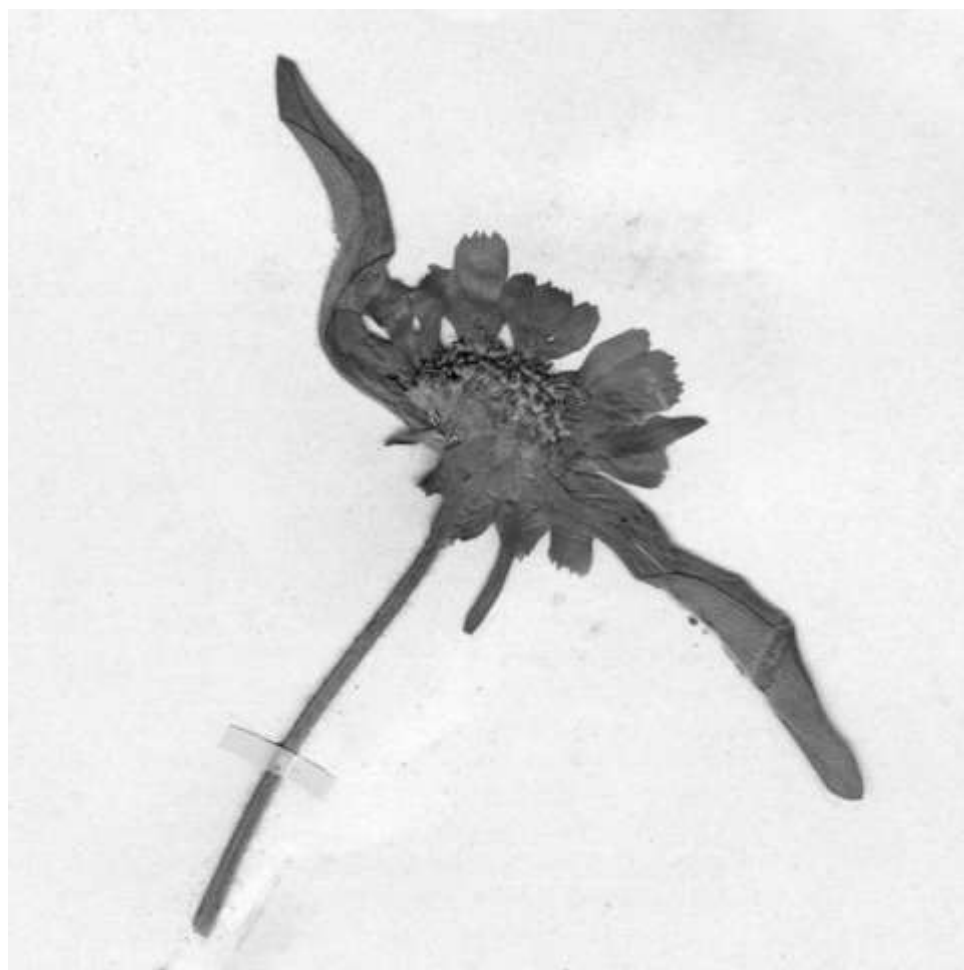
The Hill Country of Judea, Samaria and Galilee forms another region. Here snow falls in winter, the season is shorter, the climate more temperate. We no longer see near the villages the orange and palm trees; the olive, the fig, the carob, oak or the pine take their place. The hills, now treeless, were once covered with forests, and would be to-day if





only a little care were used in preserving the young growth. But the goats eat the tender leaves, and as a tree reaches a few feet in height, the women of the villages cut it down, and dig up its roots for fuel. Only twice did I see in Palestine any approach to what we would call a forest. Instead are scrub oaks, with small sharp leaves, carob, wild olive and dry thorny underwood, with numerous aromatic shrubs and herbs. The rock rose (*Cistus*), several sages (*Salvia*), and numerous small gray brushes of *Poterium* are on every hand. But the small and beautiful spring plants which during March and April cover every inch of uncultivated ground are the wonder and admiration of all travellers. Here the *Anemone Coronaria*, (the lily of Christ's parable) is always scarlet. This, the favourite flower of pilgrims and peasants, is one of the most common flowers in Palestine, and is found by the highway, in the valley and upon the mountain top; in Galilee, in Samaria and in Judea, everywhere as of old proclaiming the lesson of love and faith.







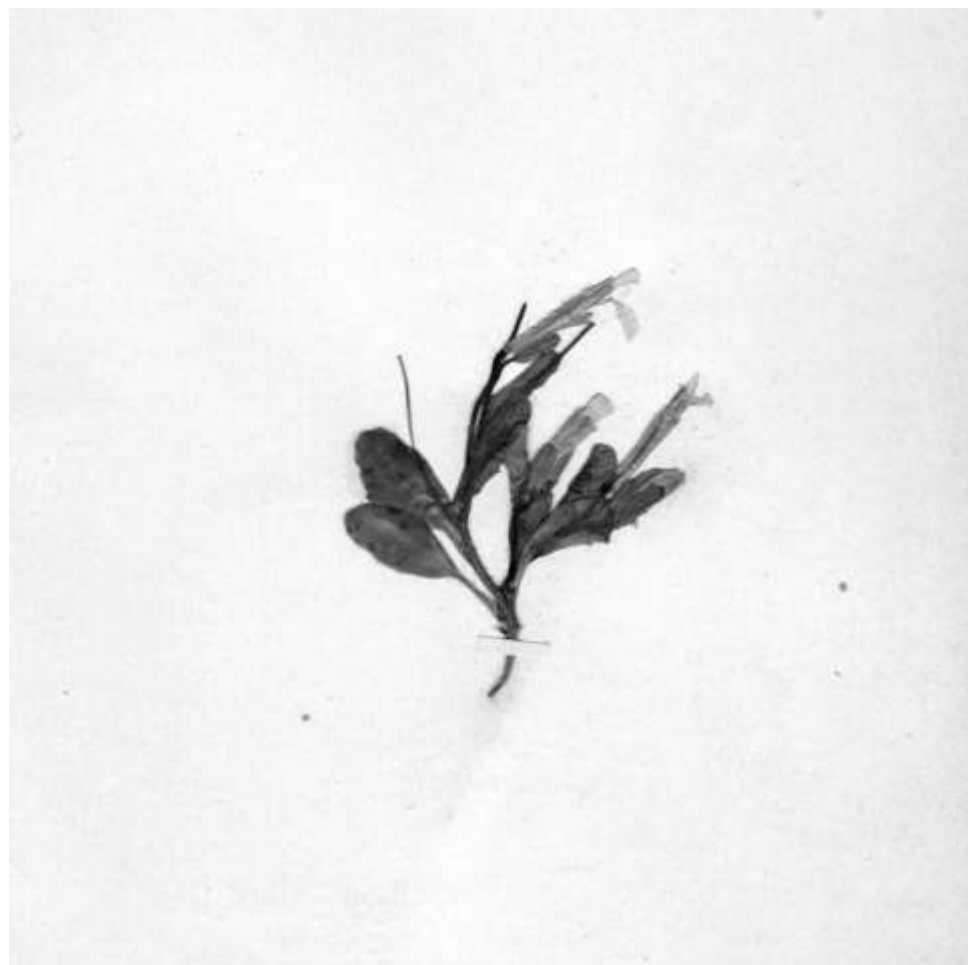




I was impressed with the large number of scarlet flowers in this region. Before the *Anemone* disappears, a large scarlet buttercup (*Ranunculus Asiaticus*) takes the field and holds it until the poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) continues the same royal colour. At the same time are two smaller but just as brilliant scarlet flowers, the pheasant's eye (*Adonis Palastina*), growing mostly about the threshing-floor of the villages, and the passion everlasting (*Helichrysum sanguineum*), growing only among the thorny underbrush of the hills.

One more region, that of the **Jordan Valley**. This is a long, narrow valley, the whole of it below the sea level. It has no winter and but little rain, in these respects being like Egypt. Could the Jordan, like the Nile, be turned upon the land it would reward the labourer with several crops a year. As it is, about the only plant life is along the river and in a few valleys that lead to the river. I noticed along the banks of the Jordan, as we floated on its surface down to the Dead Sea, the tamarisk, the willow, and the poplar trees, while "the reeds shaken by

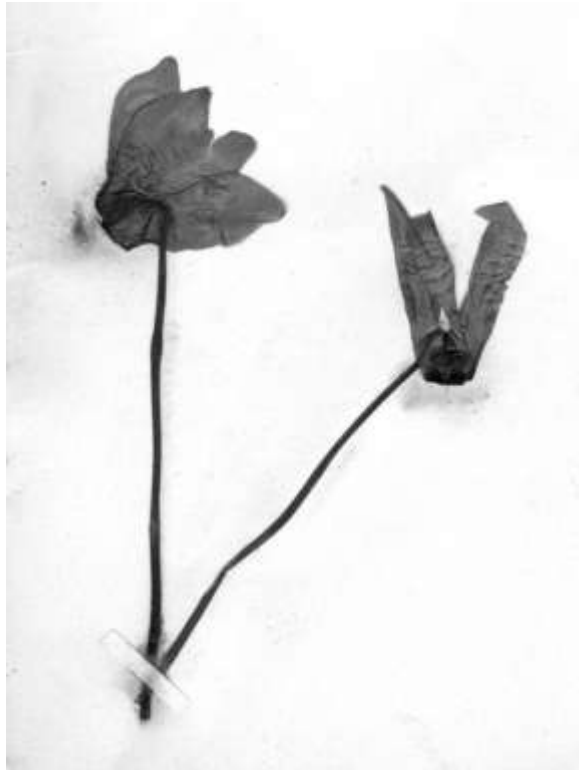




the wind" lined both banks. At Jericho were the palm, the balm, and the sycamore. It was of interest to note that the hedges about the dirty Arab city were of box-thorn (*Lycium Europaeum*), the bramble or thorn of which Christ's crown of thorns was doubtless made. In the valley grows the *Asclepias procera*, a plant characteristic of the Sahara, the blood red parasitic *Loranthus*, and several other plants that remind one of the flora of upper Egypt. With these great natural regional differences in Palestine, favouring a varied flora, it is not strange that there is no month of the year when wild flowers can not be gathered in some favoured part of the country.

In making this collection an effort was made to select as many plants as possible of Bible interest, so as to make a collection both beautiful and instructive. These flowers are sent out in the hope that they may make the truths of the Bible which they illustrate more real, and serve to increase the study of Nature and Nature's God.











ROSE OF SHARON

CYCLAMEN

GRASS

CARMEL DAISY

JUDEAN CLOVER

ANISE

FLAX

FIELD DAISY

LILY OF THE FIELD

PHEASANTS EYE

MIGNONETTE

PASSION EVERLASTING

SYRIAN PARSLEY

LENTIL

PUFFBALL

BLUE MUSTARD

BEAN

MADONNA FLOWER

HEMLOCK

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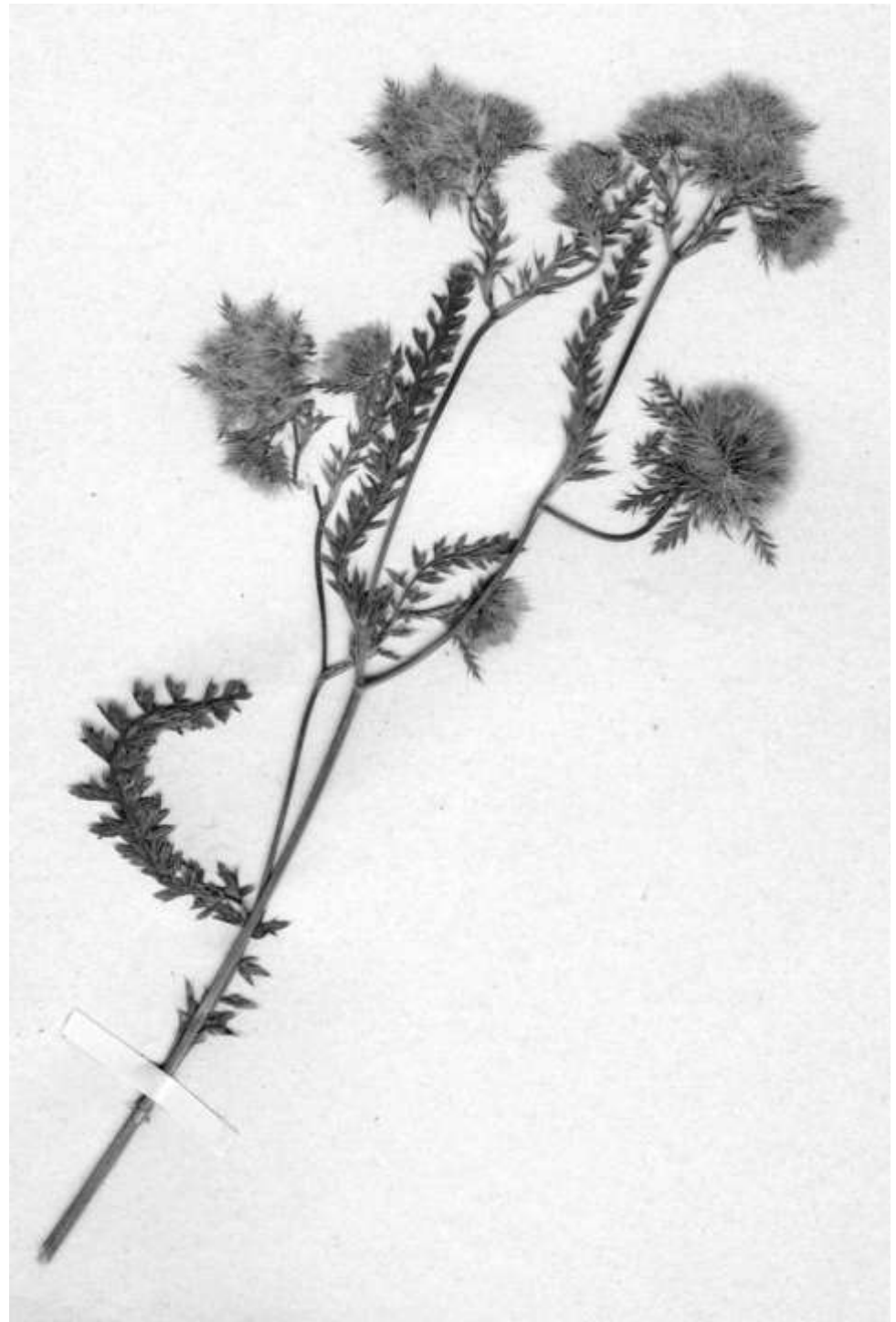
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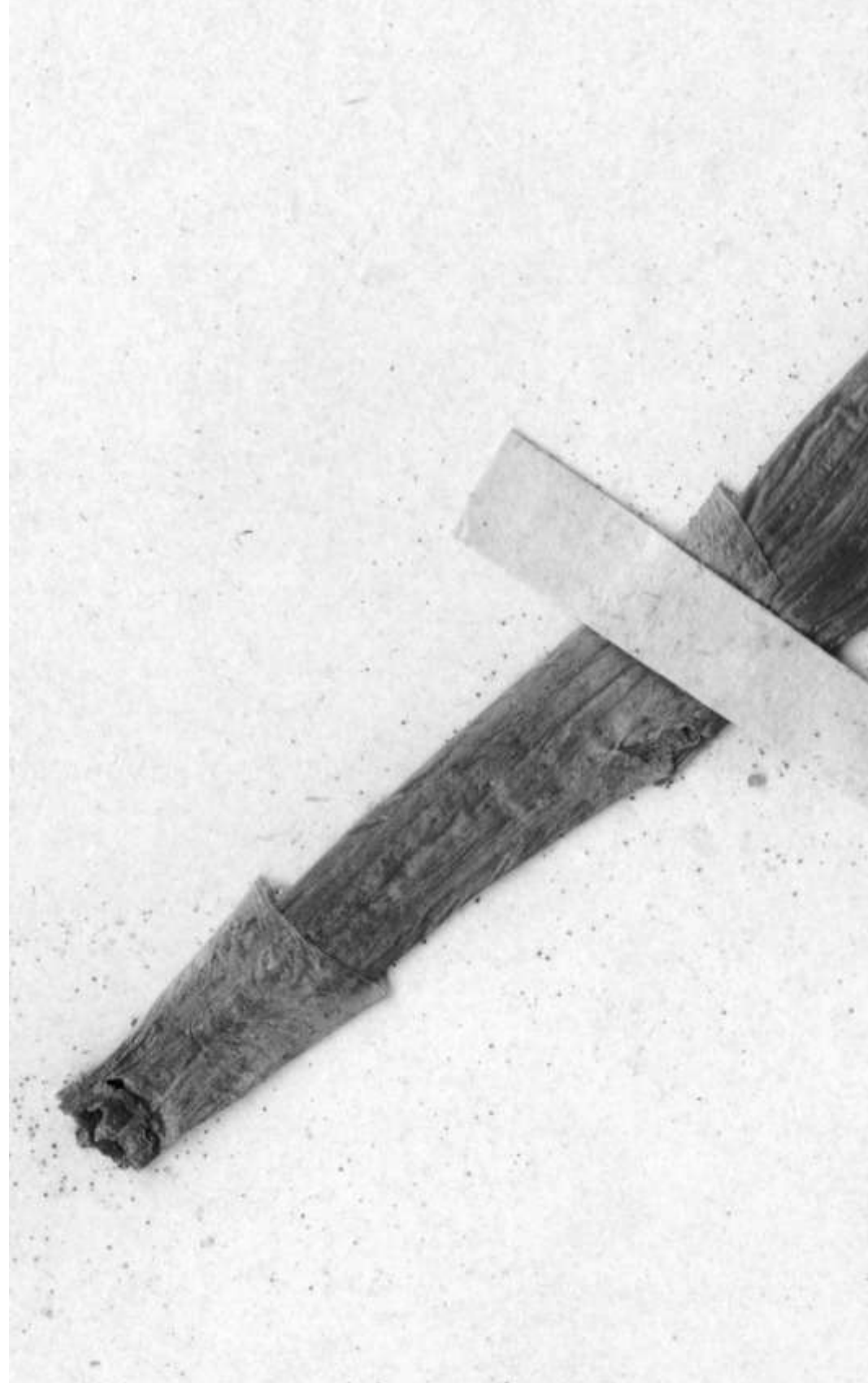
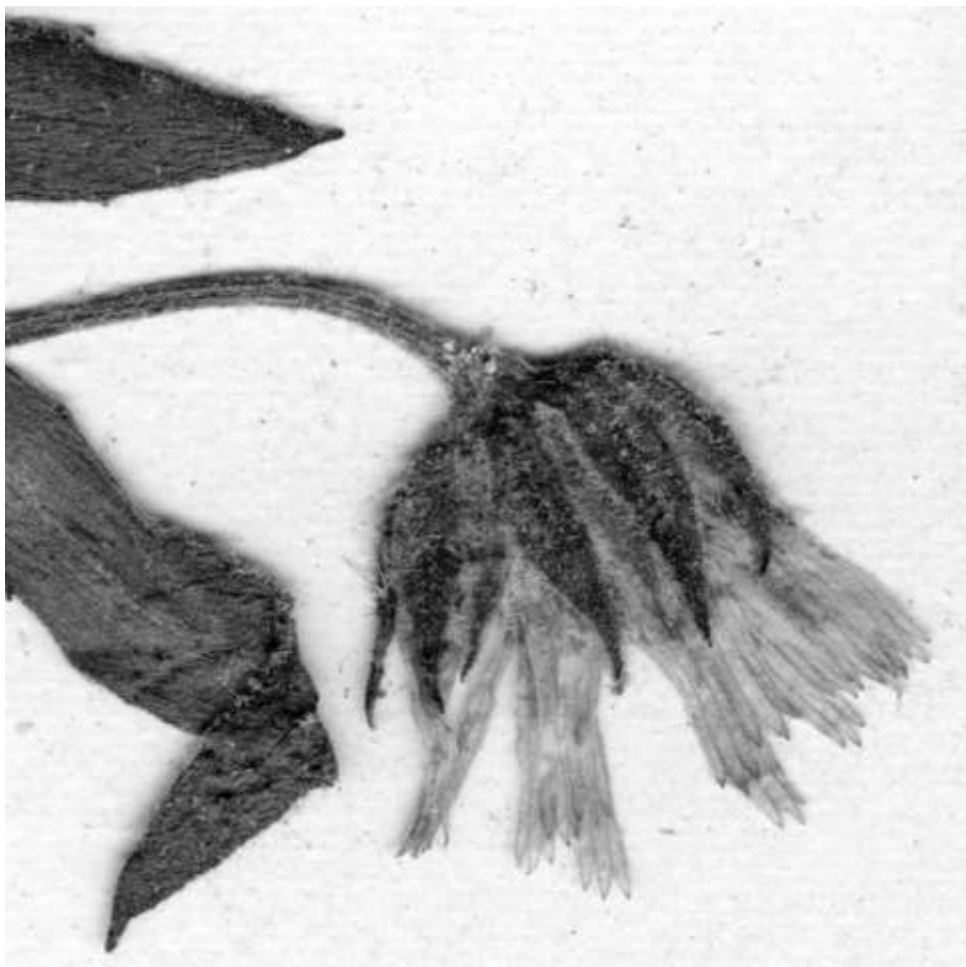






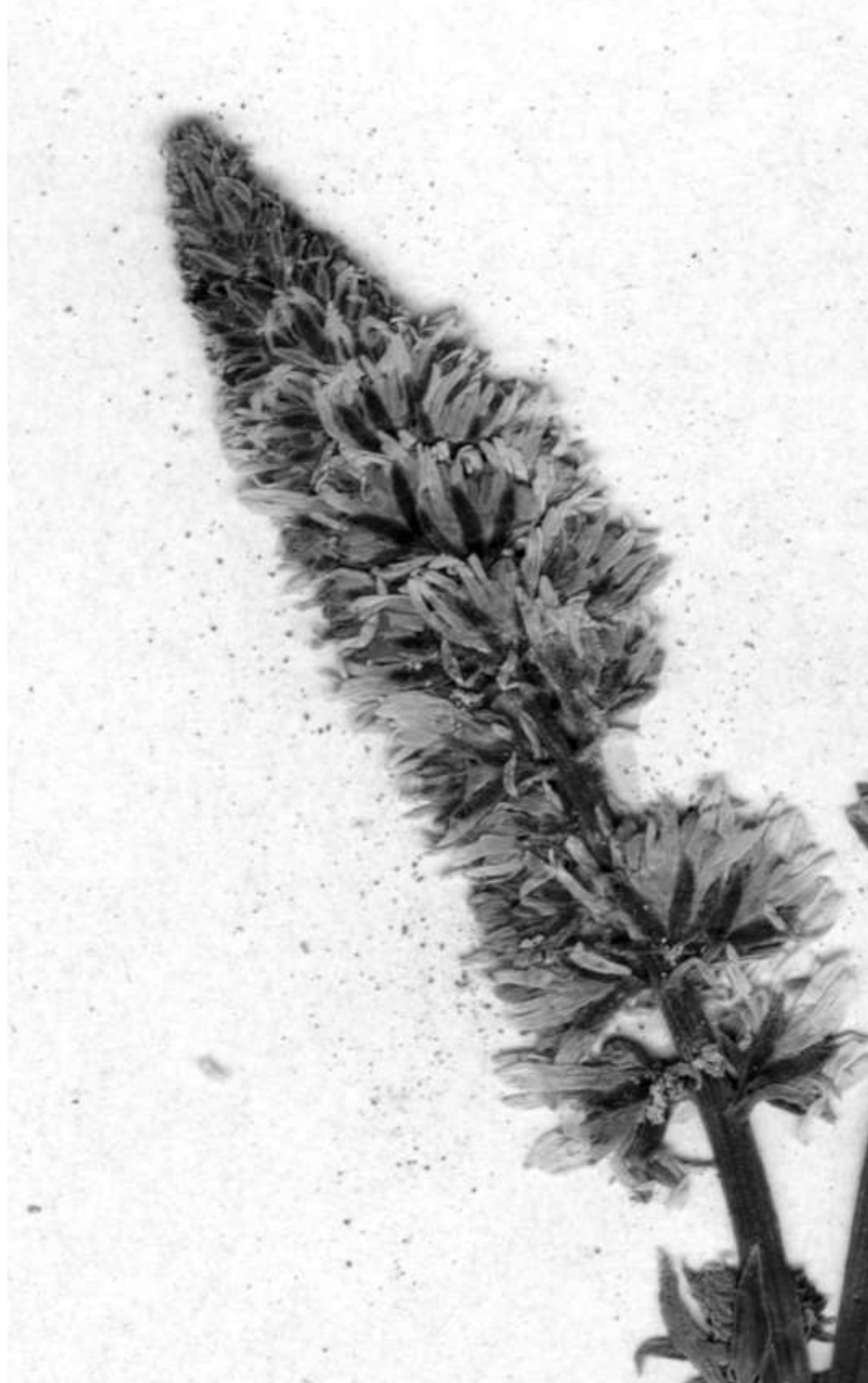


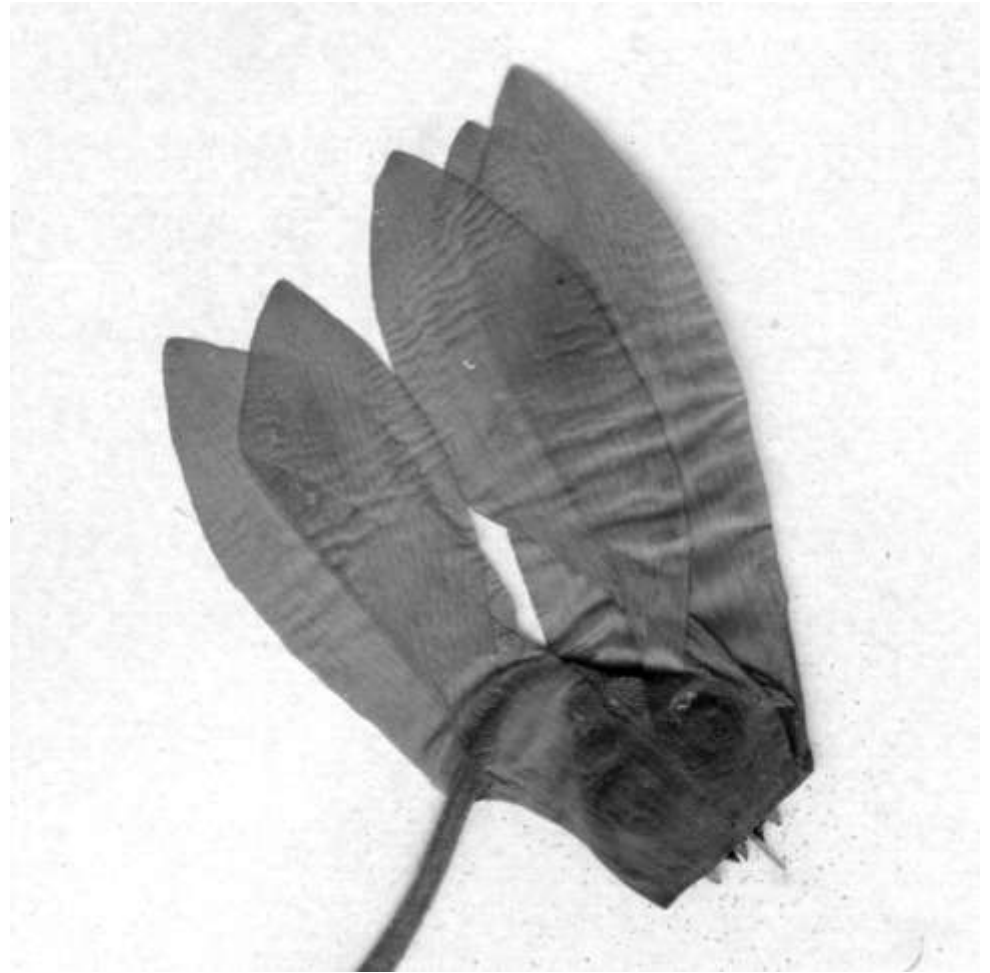


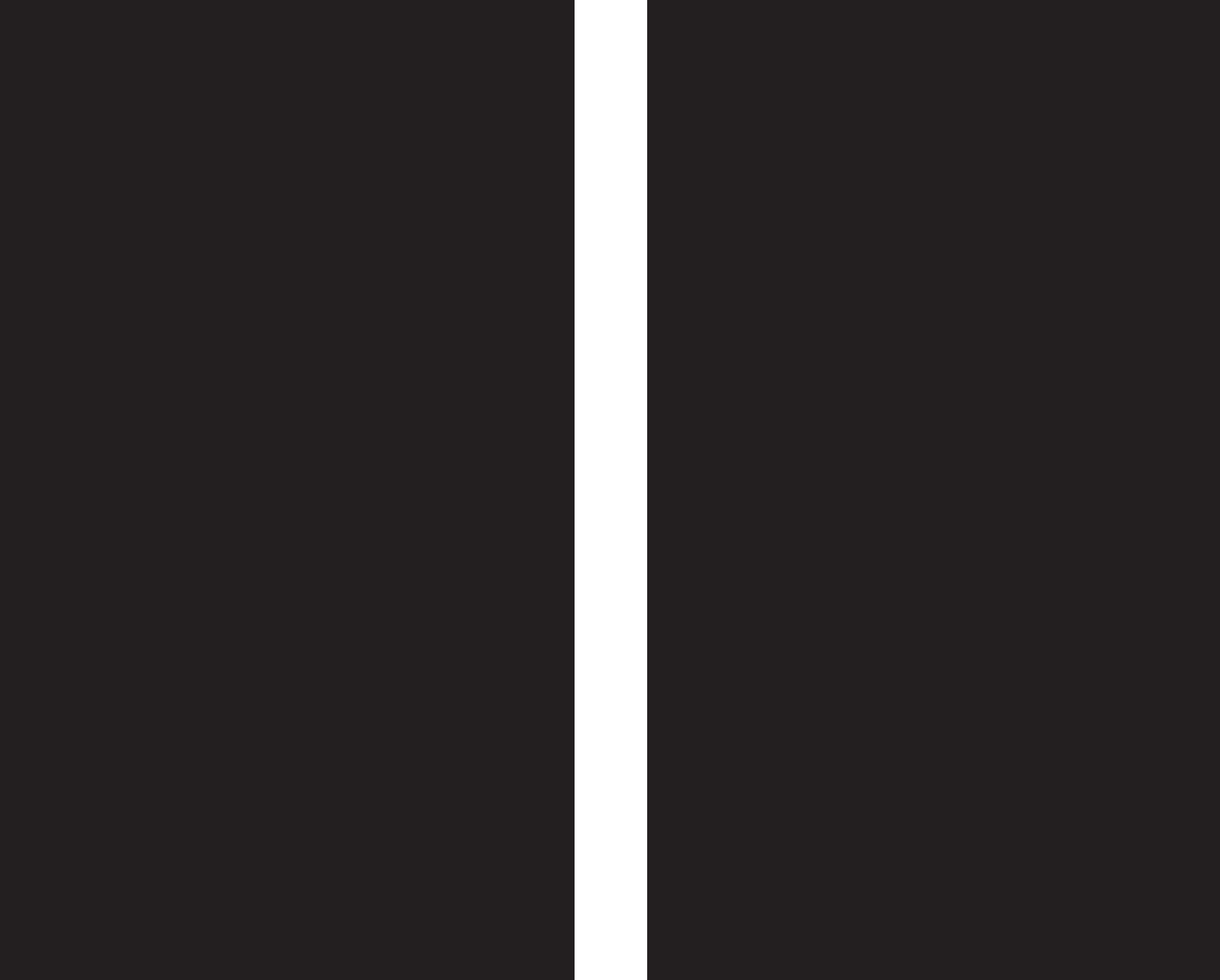


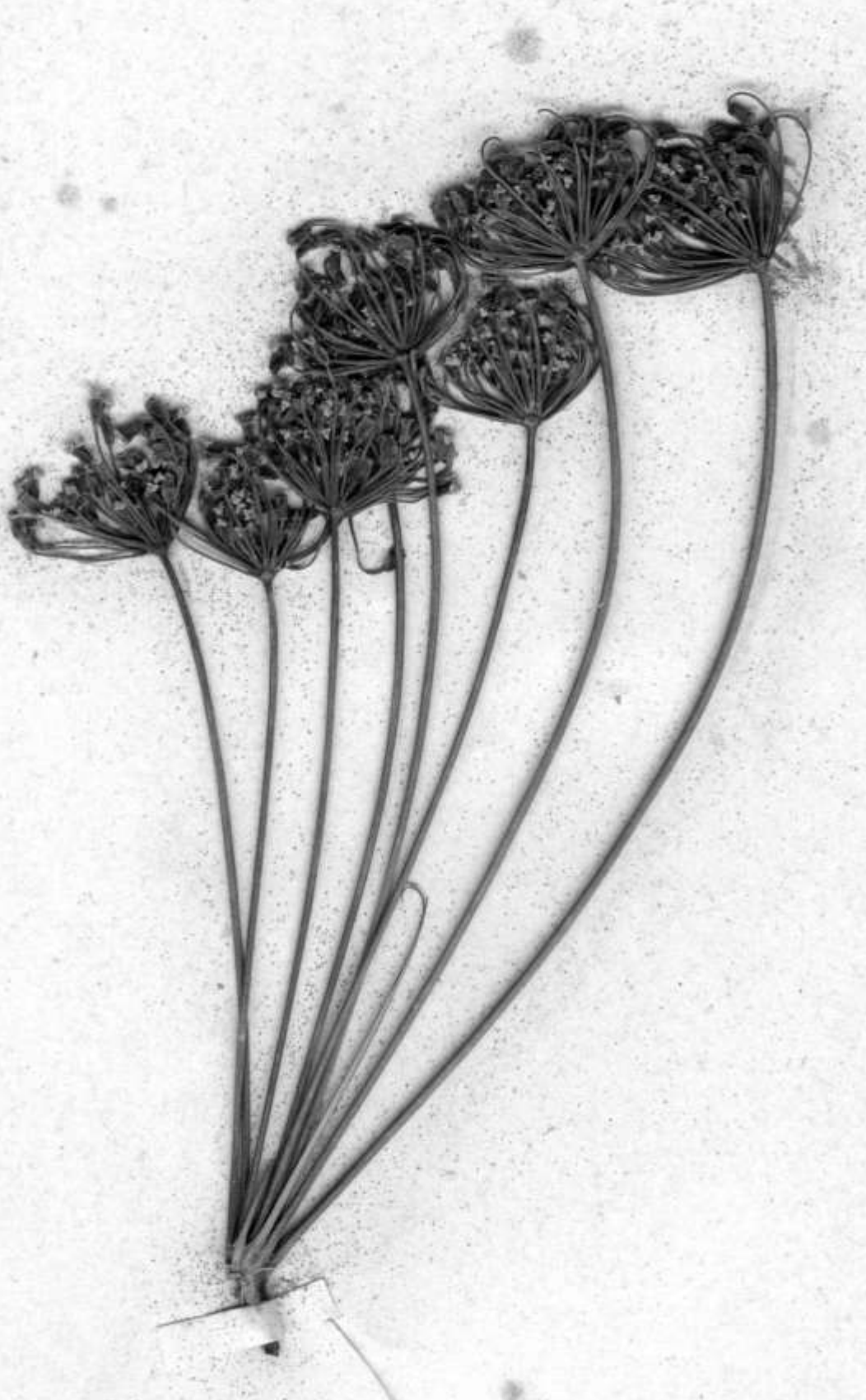




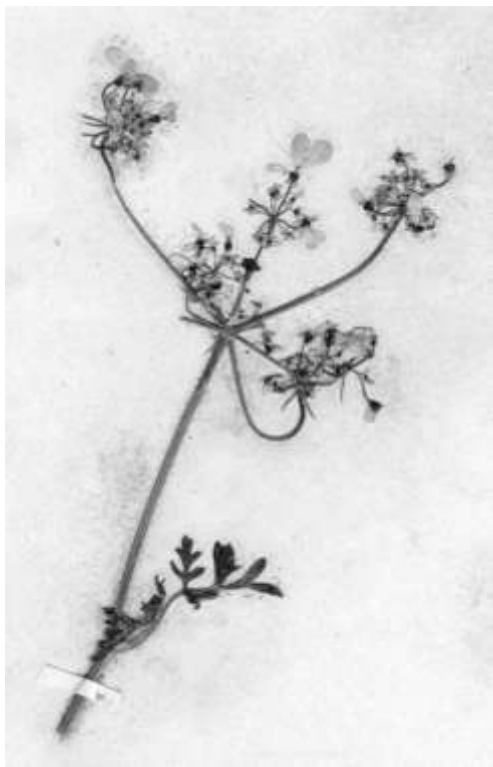








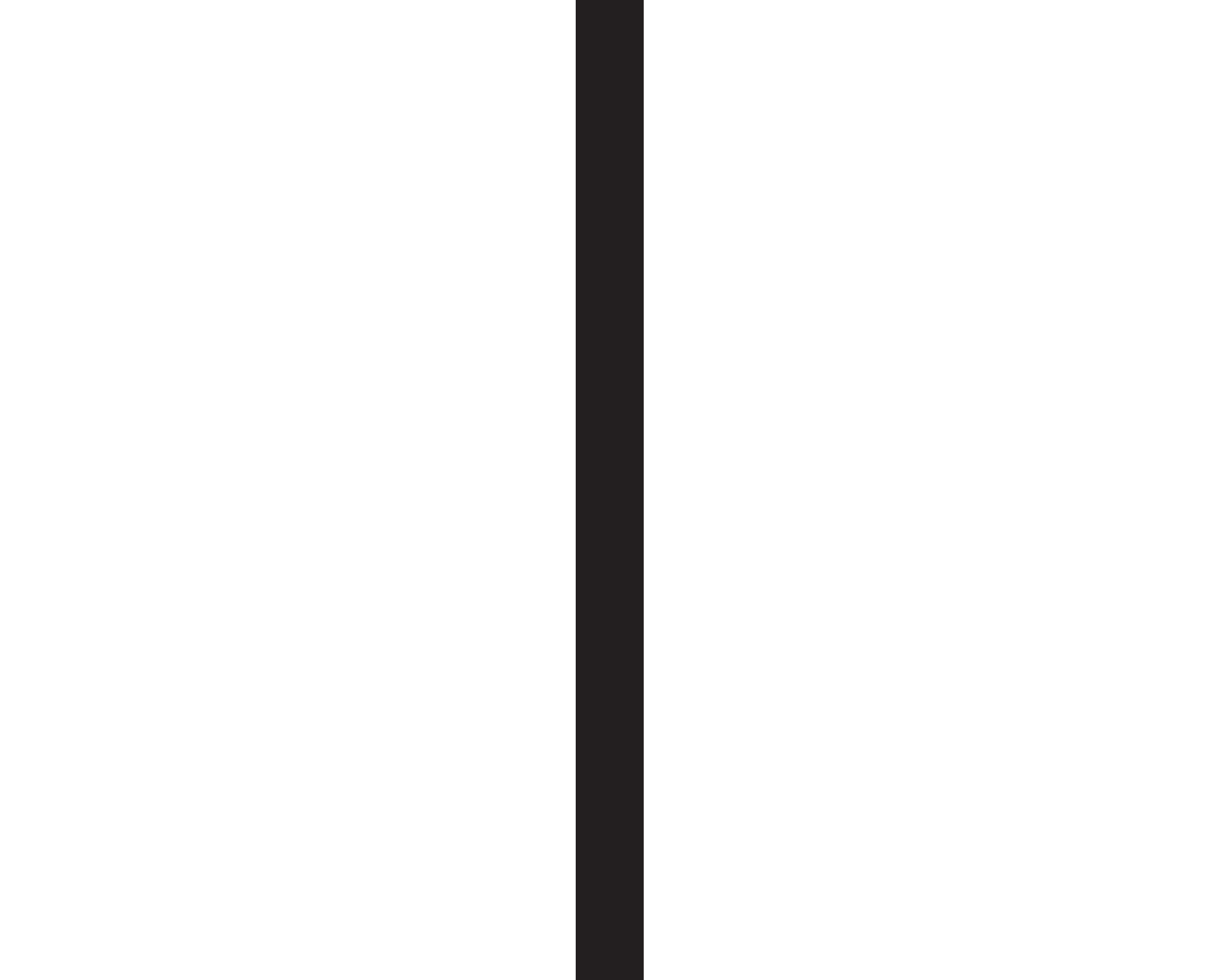


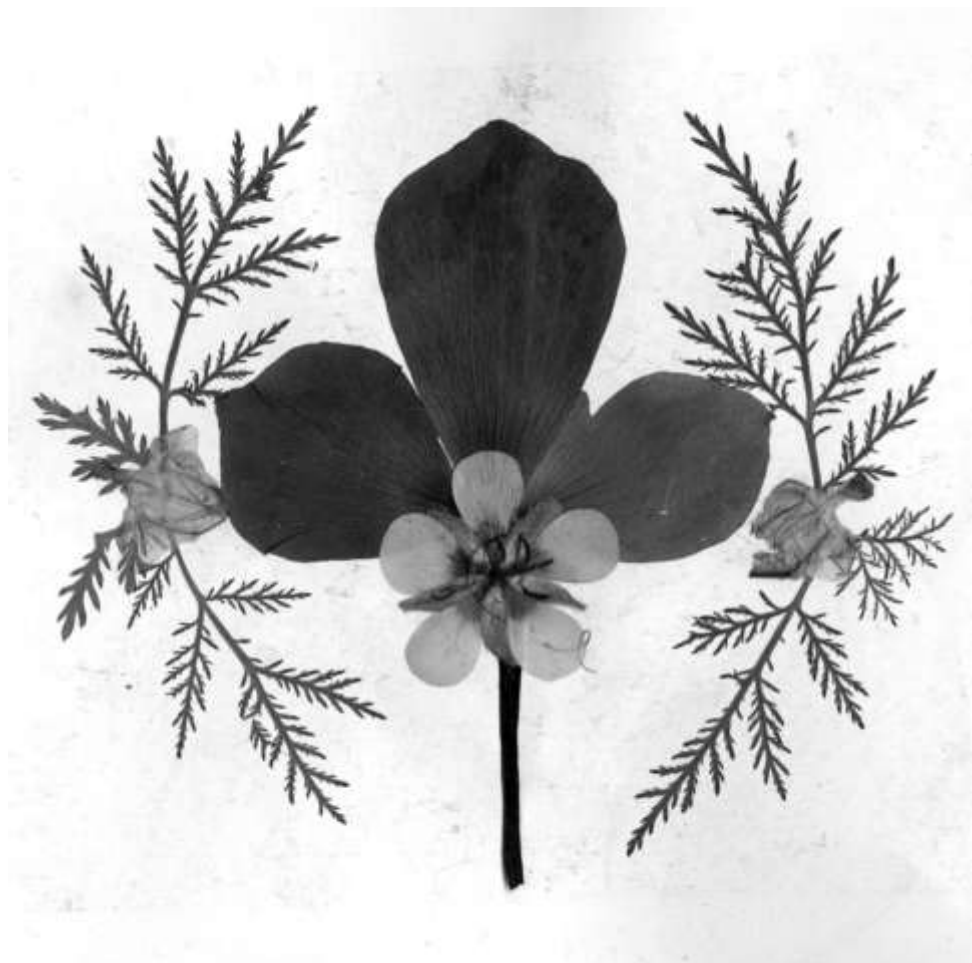


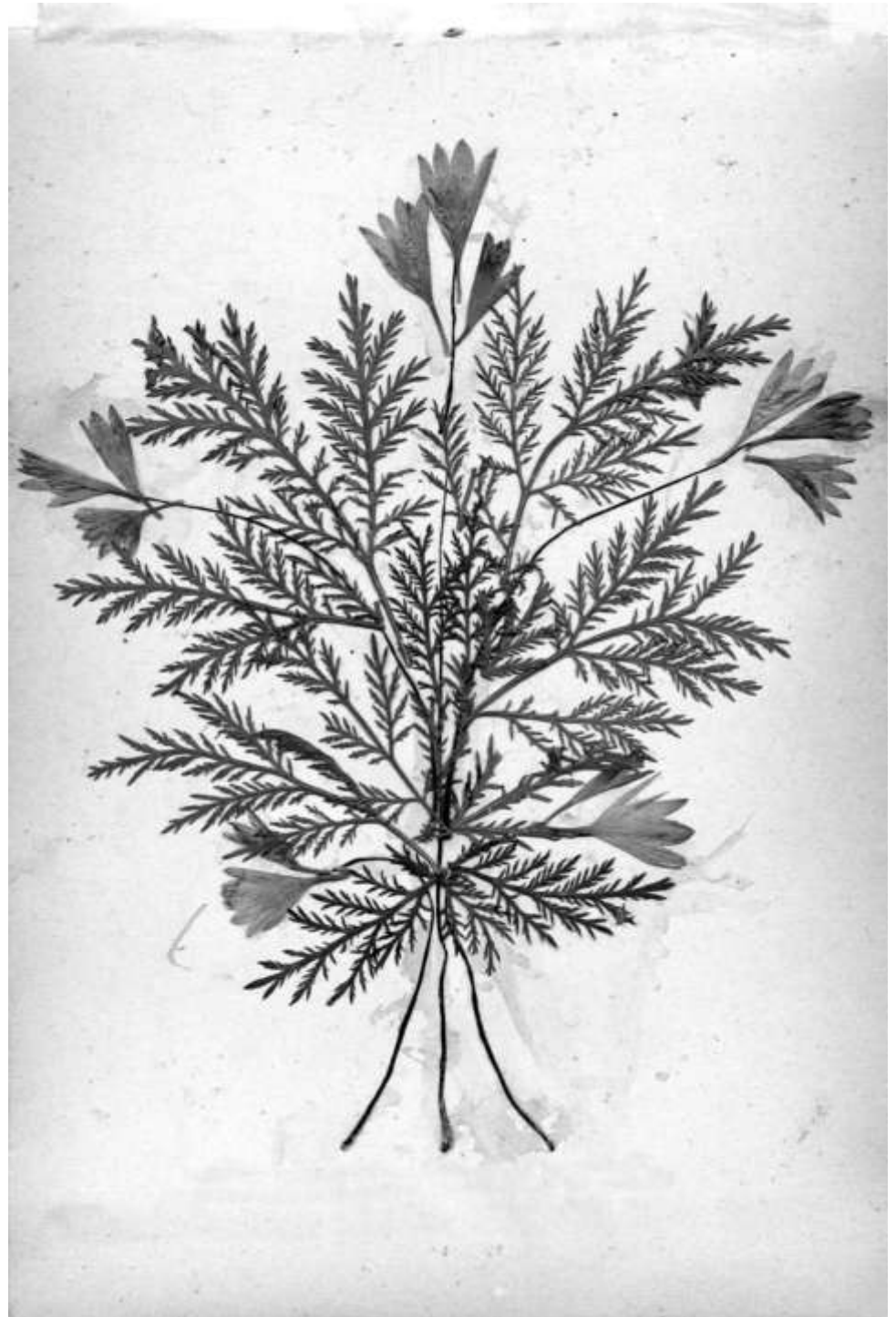








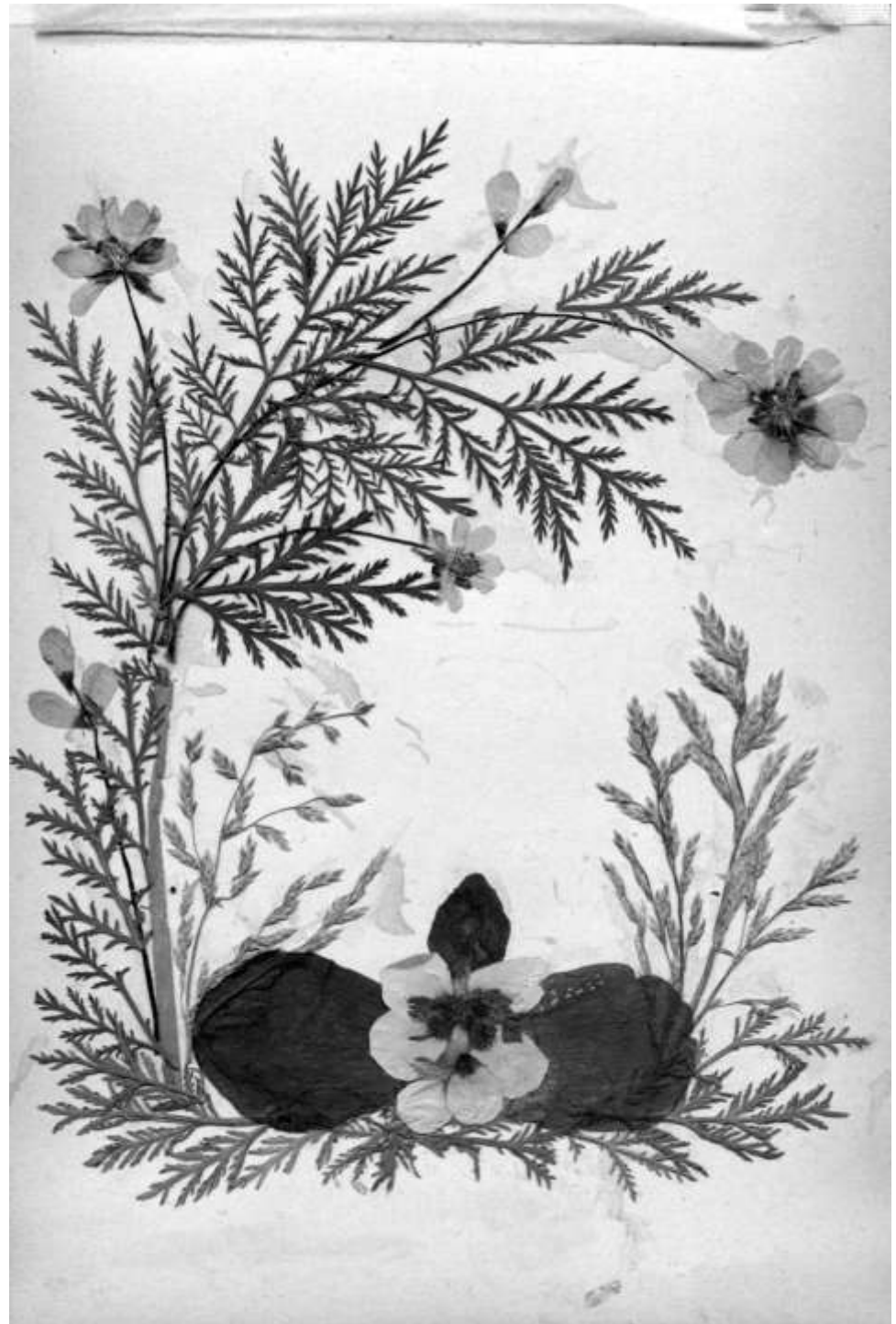




Flowers from Siloam



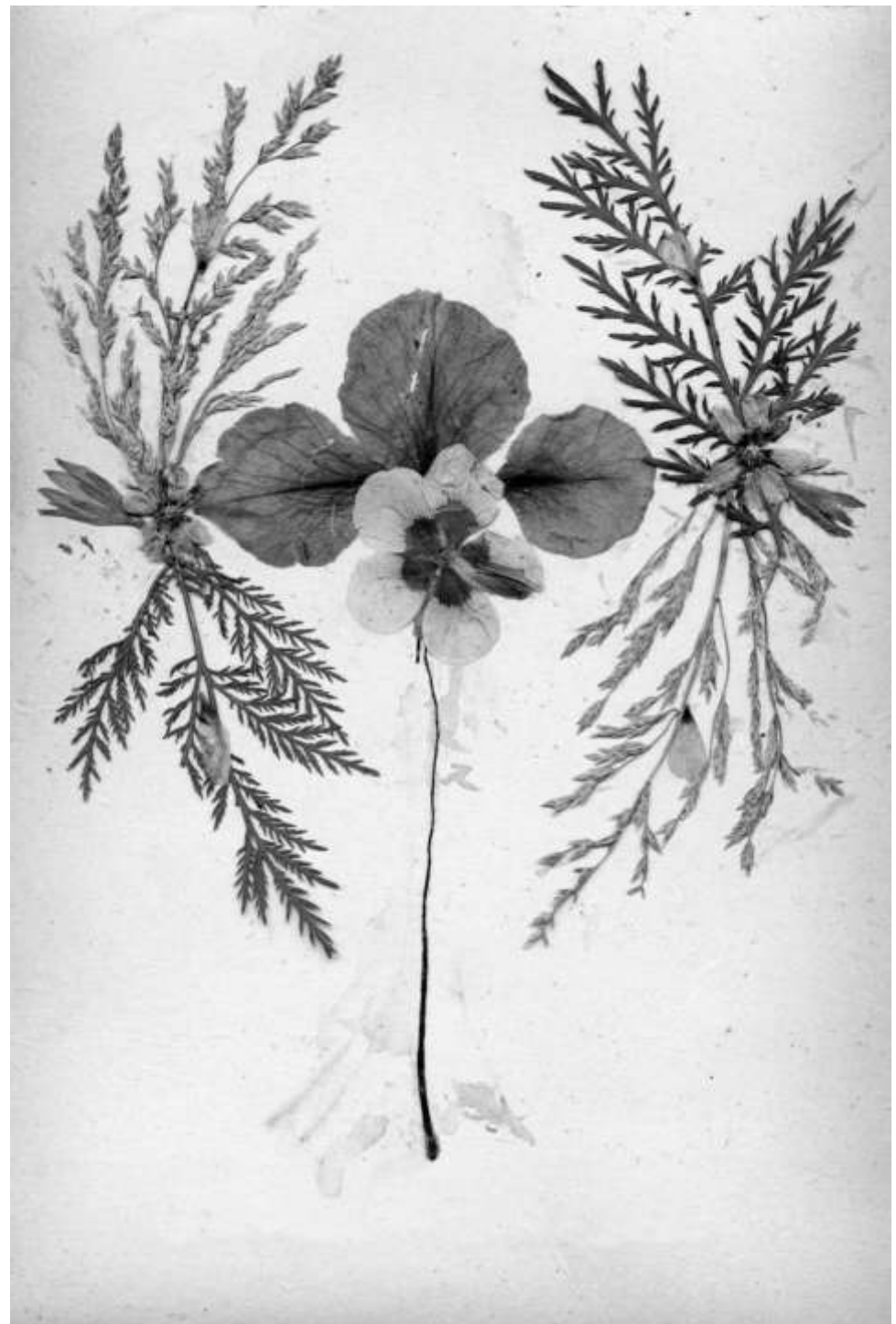
Flowers from Mount Zion



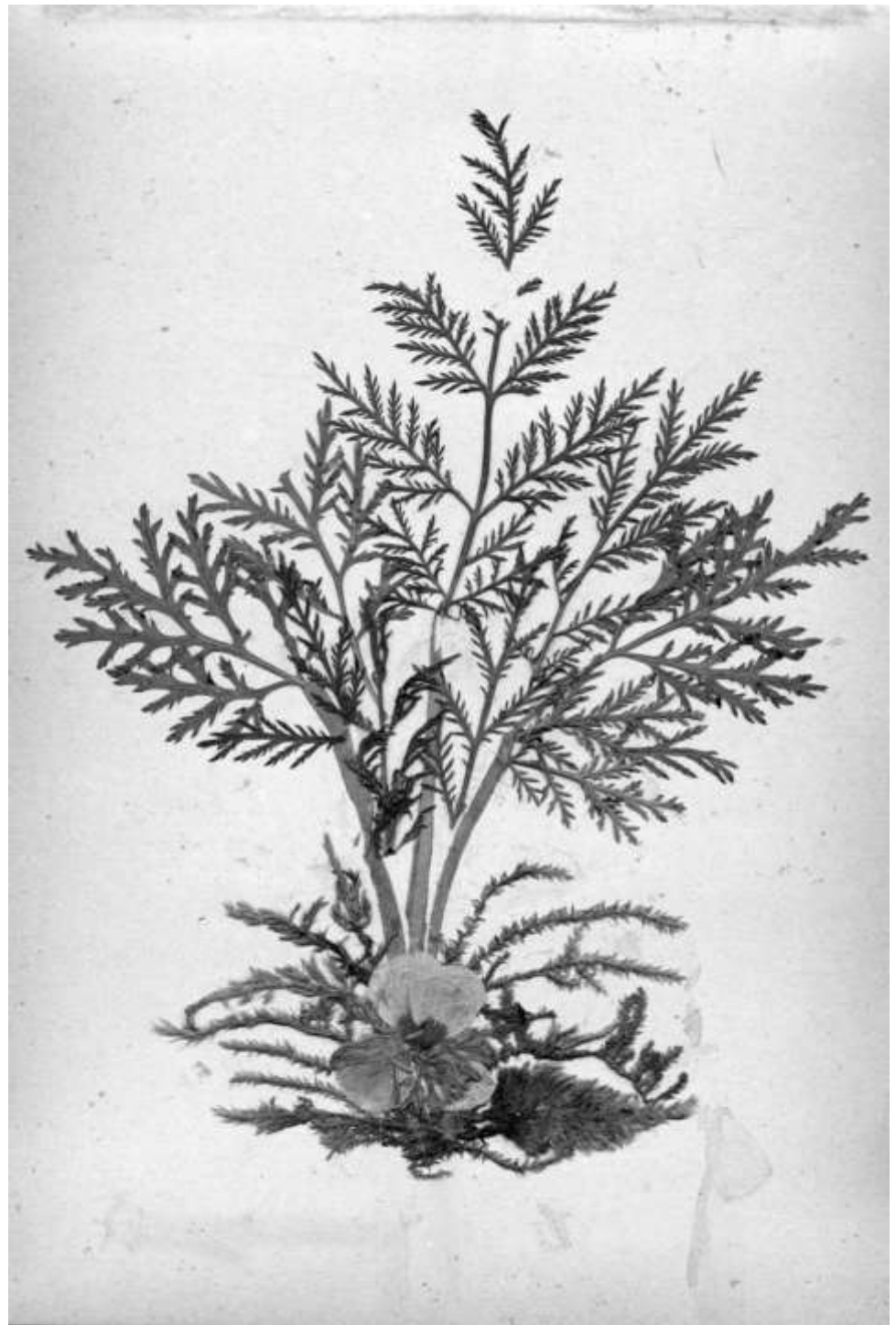
Flowers of Sharon



Flowers from Hebron



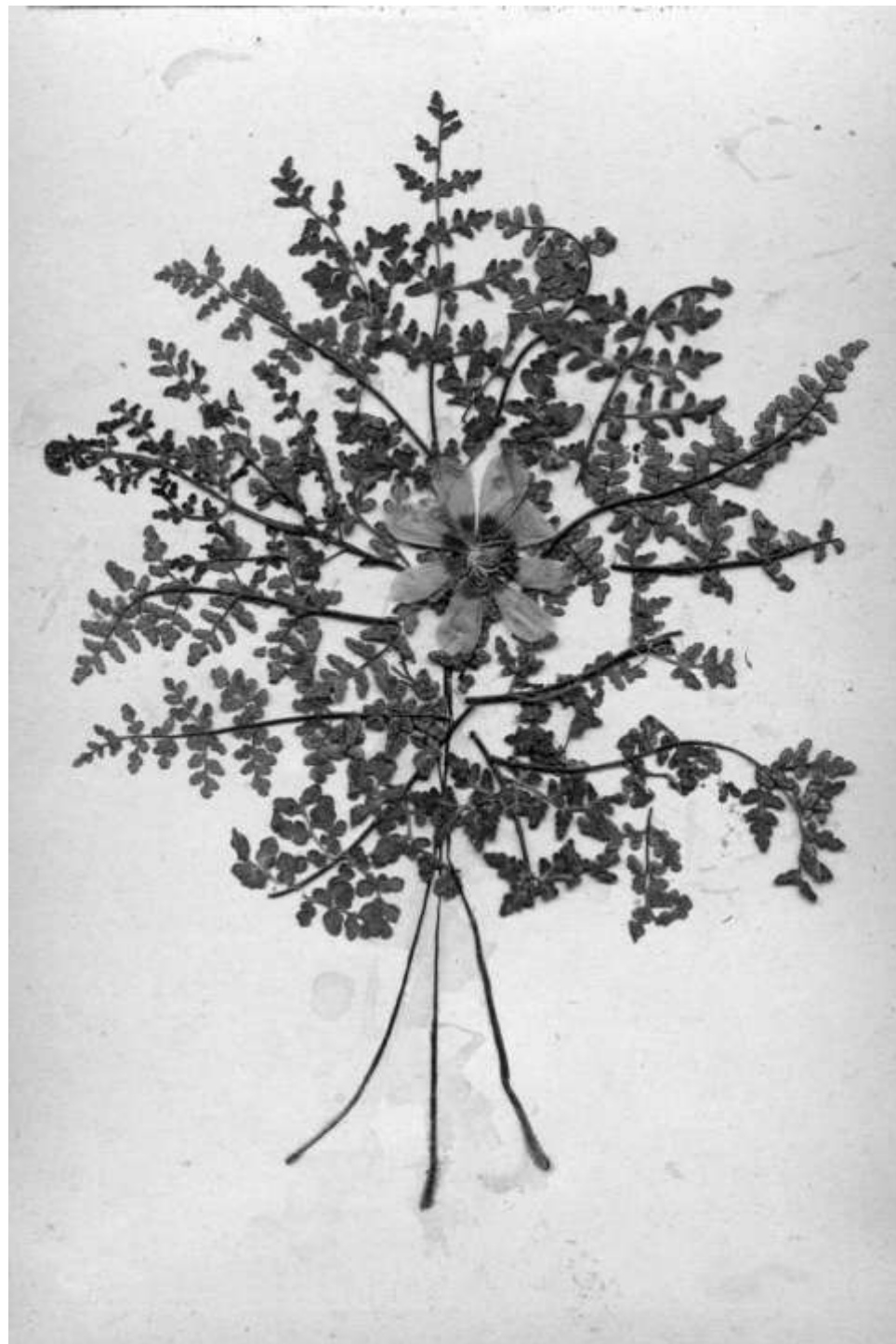
Flowers from Jericho



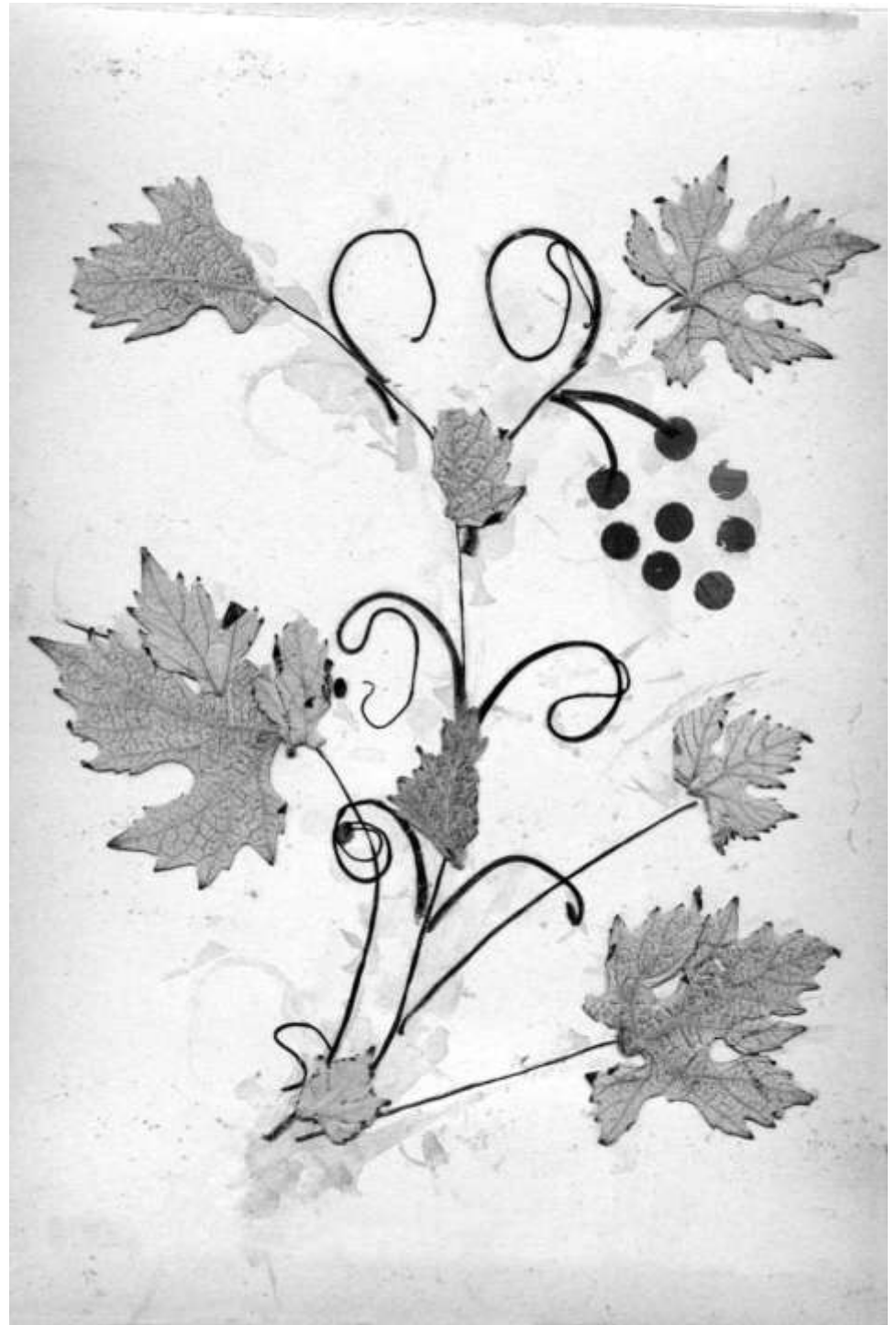
Flowers from Bethlehem



Flowers from Mount Moriah



Flowers from the Mount of Olives



Flowers from Jerusalem







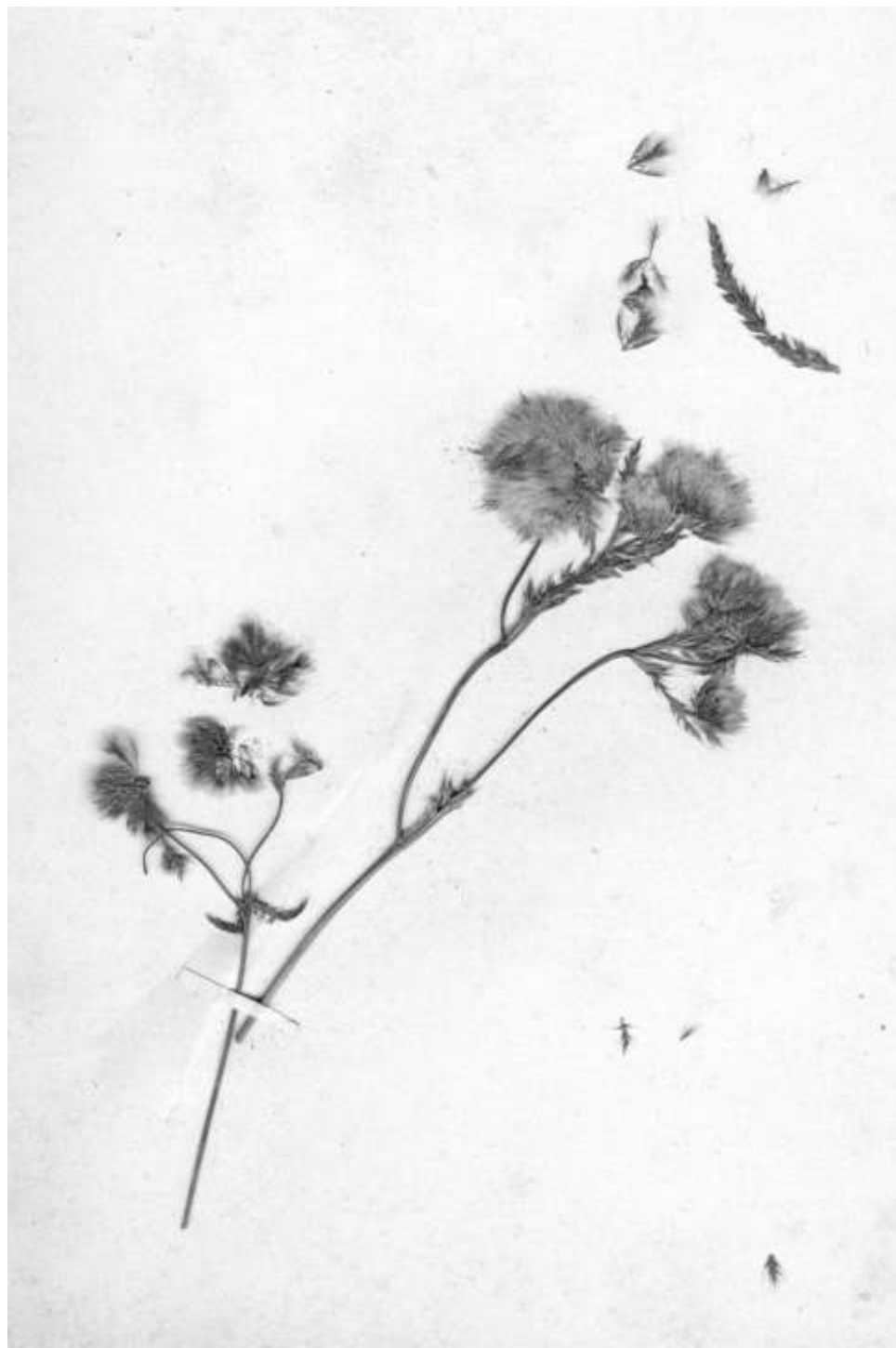
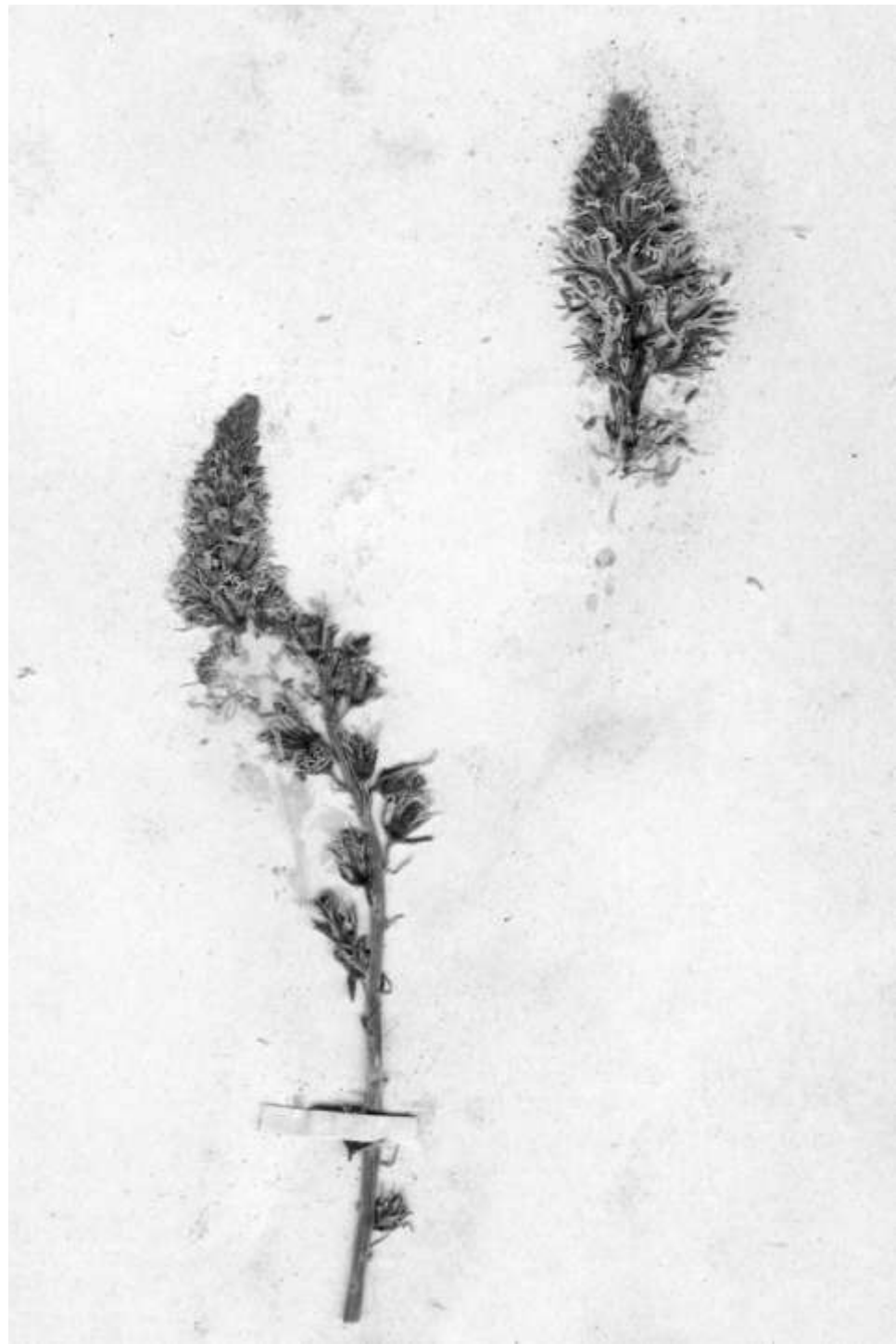










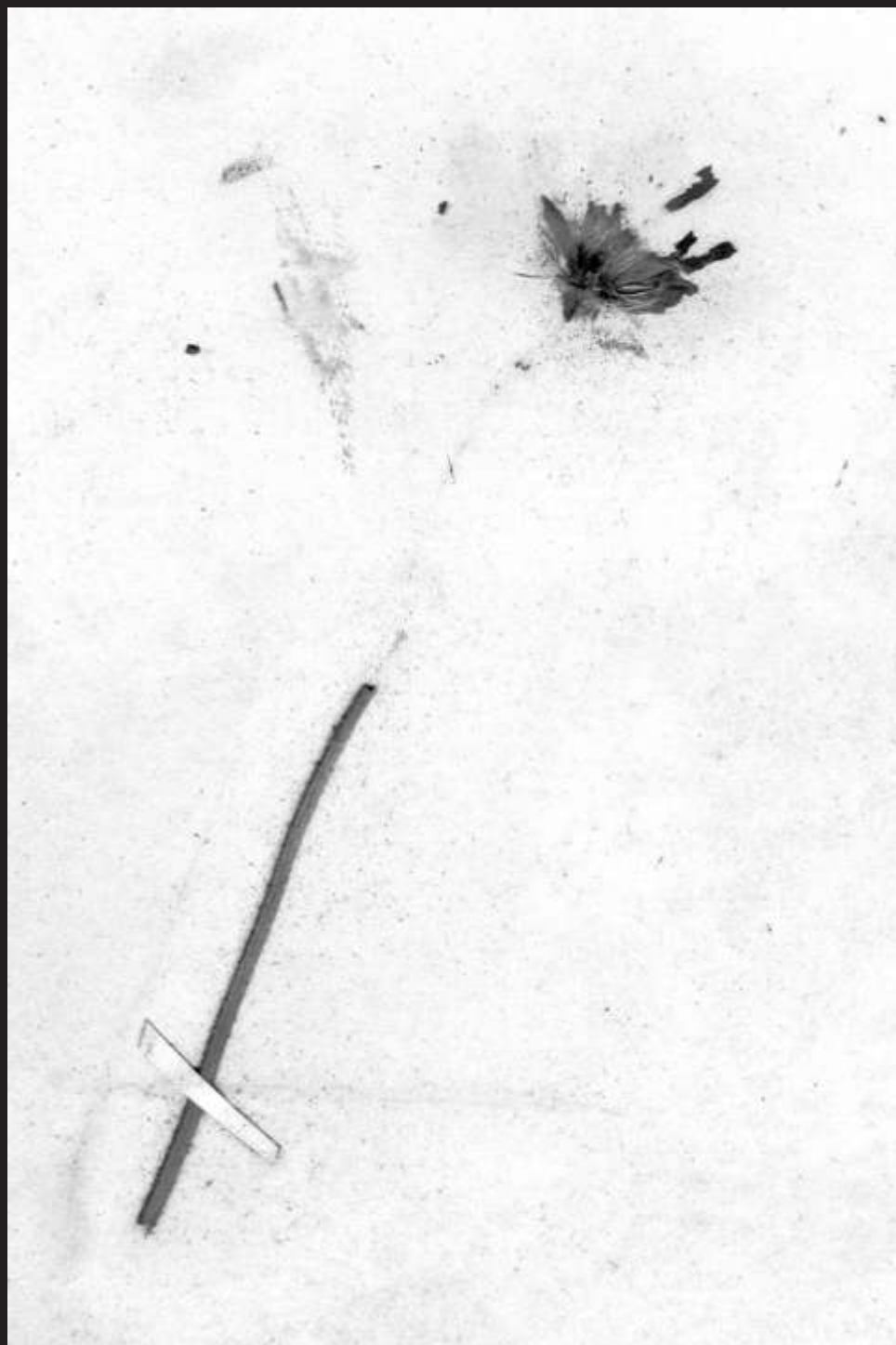












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TERRI WEIFENBACH

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