

FIFTY YEARS OF CHANGE IN *RHODORA* AND THE NEW
ENGLAND FLORA

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SUMMARY. The major changes from 1950 to the present involve destruction of natural areas, effect of invasive species as well as species new to New England, and improved taxonomies. The period 1900–1950 was influenced mainly by the great Harvard botanist M. L. Fernald. *Rhodora* was one of the earliest North American regional journals. New techniques seem to be overtaking classical field and herbarium studies, and many of our field and herbarium workers feel eclipsed and no longer of value. Graduate students are giving up ambitions of becoming systematic botanists because they are not interested in purely laboratory or computer research. A comparison of studies of pteridophyte taxonomy between the period 1900–1950 and the present shows profound changes. The future of our research in New England should include careful comparison with other parts of North America, for example the western Great Lakes. There is still much to do, and field and herbarium studies are as important as ever. *Rhodora* continues to be an inspiration.



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