

BOOK REVIEW

Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Florida and Adjacent Georgia and Alabama, by Robert K. Godfrey, with the majority of illustrations by Melanie Darst. University of Georgia Press, Athens and London, 1989. ix + 734 pp. ISBN 0-8203-1035-2. \$50 hardcover.

As might be expected from his previous splendid publications and his extraordinary field knowledge, Robert Godfrey's new book on the woody plants of northern Florida and adjacent areas is a superb addition to the botanical literature of the Southeast. Having done extensive field work myself in the area many years ago, I perused this book very carefully to see which of my woody species he had omitted and which I might have overlooked in southwestern Georgia. Of the former, *Corylus americana* Walter and *Crataegus brachyacantha* Englem. & Sarg. apparently have not been found in northern Florida. *Agave virginica* L. and *Erythrina herbacea* L. surely have been found there but arguably lack sufficient woodiness in northern Florida to qualify for the book, although in peninsular Florida *E. herbacea* does become a sizable shrub or small tree. I had failed to find, or at least to recognize, perhaps ten species attributed by Godfrey to southwestern Georgia. In 1946–1949 most of them were not generally recognized as distinct species or were not known from southern Georgia. I should like to look for them there now. I was particularly delighted to note that *Bumelia thornei* Cronq., of the Sapotaceae, has not only been rediscovered in Georgia but has been added by Godfrey to the Florida flora.

Godfrey's taxonomy is rather traditional. His species and generic concepts and nomenclature are most acceptable and up to date, but his disinterest in phylogeny is apparent. *Nandina* is still retained in the Berberidaceae, *Sambucus* and *Viburnum* in the Caprifoliaceae, *Phoradendron* in the Loranthaceae, *Nyssa* in the Nyssaceae, and *Decumaria*, *Hydrangea*, *Itea*, *Philadelphus*, and *Ribes* in the Saxifragaceae. On the other hand, the family name Avicenniaceae is accepted for *Avicennia*, the Black Mangrove. For ready reference the families are arranged alphabetically in the major groups, but unfortunately four of the larger families must be sought under the older names Gramineae, Palmae, Guttiferae, and Leguminosae. I should have preferred that species, like genera, be consistently arranged in alphabetical order.

The category "subspecies" should have been employed more frequently. I have long believed that use of that category would solve some of the most difficult taxonomic problems among southeastern woody plants—for example, in such closely related pairs as *Juniperus virginiana*–*J. silicicola*, *Taxodium distichum*–*T. ascendens*, *Myrica cerifera*–*M. pusilla*, *Nyssa sylvatica*–*N. biflora*, *Toxicodendron radicans*–*T. toxicarium*, *Cyrilla racemiflora*–*C. parvifolia*, *Tilia*

americana—*T. heterophylla*, *Clethra alnifolia*—*C. tomentosa*, *Halesia diptera* var. *diptera* and var. *magniflora*, and probably many more. The subspecific treatment of the southern sugar maples is a good example of what can thereby be achieved.

The original descriptions and keys are accurate, thorough, well done, and reflective of the author's field acumen. The keys particularly are readily usable for identification and for differentiation of taxa because of the emphasis on vegetative characteristics. Excellent full-page drawings are supplied for almost all species, both indigenous and naturalized, and add much to the value of the book. Statements on habitats and distribution again reflect the broad field knowledge of the author and his careful study of floristic literature.

A useful glossary follows the introduction. Several pages of pertinent references precede the indexes to common and scientific names (I would have preferred that the two indexes be combined). Proofreading must have been painstaking, for I found very few errors. On page 132 *A. incanna* and on page 133 *A. incarna* are used for *Asimina incana* (Bartram) Exell. Apparently Godfrey prefers to use Bartram's original misprint *A. incarna* for this species, despite Exell's selection of *A. incana* as the intended correct name. Job Kuijt might be surprised at the misspelling of his name on page 454.

This book is a "must" addition to the bookshelf for anyone interested in identification of woody plants of the American Southeast or in the southeastern flora and woody plants, ecology, and phytogeography in general. As book prices go nowadays, \$50 is reasonable for such an informative, well-illustrated, well-printed, and well-bound tome.—ROBERT F. THORNE, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California 91711.



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