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Review

“*Ferns of the Coastal Plain: Their Lore, Legends, and Uses*,” by Lin Dunbar. 1989. xiv + 165 pp. Univ. of South Carolina Press, Columbia, SC 29208. \$21.95. ISBN 0-87249-594-9.

This book covers the Atlantic coastal plain from Washington, DC south to the North Carolina border and then southwestward through Georgia to the Alabama and Florida borders. This area, therefore, includes a small part of Virginia, about half of North Carolina, and more than half of South Carolina and Georgia. Forty-six species of ferns growing in this region are accounted for by illustrations, informal descriptions, and fascinating ecological and ethnobotanical notes. The species are grouped according to frond division. Although no key to the species is included, they can be differentiated within groups by their illustrations and descriptions. A general introduction includes information on fern names, their life cycle and morphology, uses, and myths, folklore, and symbolism. A glossary, a bibliography, and an index to common and scientific names conclude the volume.

The author is an experienced plant hunter and forager with close ties to the people of the costal plain who are close to the land. Her book is a compendium of uses, lore, and mythology, both from local informants and sources distant in time and place. It is a wonderful introduction to the oftentimes separate worlds of taxonomy and ethnobotany and will be appreciated both by neophytes and experienced botanists. A paperback edition (ISBN 0-87249-595-7, \$7.95) is also available.—DAVID B. LELLINGER, U.S. National Herbarium NHB-166, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.



Lellinger, David B. and Dunbar, Lin. 1989. "Ferns of the Coastal Plain: Their Lore, Legends, and Uses." *American fern journal* 79, 135–135.

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