

Vascular Flora of the Southeastern United States: Volume 1, Asteraceae

By Arthur Cronquist. 1980. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. xv + 261 pp. U.S. \$25.00.

Before I opened the cover of this book, I had somehow anticipated the format of the *Intermountain flora* and *Vascular plants of the Pacific Northwest*, other floras with which Arthur Cronquist has been associated. This flora, however, does not contain the same detailed synonymy and citation of types that is found in the Intermountain and Pacific Northwest floras, but follows the format laid down by A.E. Radford et al. in *Contributors' guide for the vascular flora of the southeastern United States*, which is repeated in part, in the preface.

The presentation is essentially that of a classical flora with dichotomous keys and detailed descriptions, habitat, and known geographic distribution within the southeastern states and the adjacent states. Chromosome numbers are given, but there is no indication as to whether these counts were based on material from within the area treated by the flora.

Synonymy is given where names used differ from the four manuals which cover parts of the region

treated: Small 1933; Fernald 1950; Gleason and Cronquist 1963; and Radford et al. 1968. Literature citations are provided for recent monographs.

The only awkward feature of the book is the use of abbreviations for the physiographic regions, with which the user must familiarize himself.

The area covered is that part of the forested United States lying east of the prairie and extending north to the southernmost terminal moraines. The aim is to include all of the vascular plants growing outside of cultivation within this region.

The need for a new treatment to replace Small's *Manual of the southeastern flora* has been evident for many years. This first volume of the new *Vascular flora of the southeastern United States* by Cronquist is an excellent beginning for the series, and it is to be hoped that the authors for the remaining families will follow his fine example.

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Ferns of North-western Himalayas

By K. K. Dhir. 1980. In *Bibliotheca Pteridologica*, Band 1. J. Cramer, Braunschweig, West Germany. 158 pp., illus. DM40.

This book will have little utility for either amateurs or professionals in North America. For the amateur, he is told that there are 264 species in the region under consideration, which is in the states of Jammu and Kashmir. The region is said to be "not rich in variety of ferns" but has 3.3 times as many species (80) as given by Scoggan for Canada. There are no keys, no descriptions, and no illustrations to distinguish these 264 species, so obviously other works will have to be consulted. A Canadian will be glad to see some familiar friends such as *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Osmunda claytoniana*, *O. regalis*, *Adiantum pedatum*, *Cryptogramma crassa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Woodsia alpina* (rare), *Polystichum lonchitis*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *C. montana* (rare as usual), *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Phegopteris polypodioides*, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, *Thelypteris palustris*, *Asplenium viride*, *A. trichomanes*, etc., but these will be insufficient to extrapolate to all the new genera and species in this region. The professional will note that the system of classification is not discussed, but follows a scheme of Mehra presented in 1961. A large amount of space is taken up with a literature citation for the names used, followed

by references to floristic works concerning the species in India. The other contribution is to give some ecological notes about each species, e.g., *Osmunda claytoniana*, "very common at high elevations," and some locality data for the collections.

The only light reading is in the first 23 pages, where there is a brief sketch of the climate, soils, vegetation, epiphytes, climbers, forest floor species, ravine ferns, thicket species, lithophytes, water ferns, etc. The writer uses a colorful style which is not often encountered in works such as this, e.g., "The water holding capacity of rocky soils along the roadside is desperately poor"; regarding evergreen ferns, "perpetuating during the snowy period"; regarding epiphytes, "in the forests with lax crown," "their root systems are more prolific and wiry thus anchoring them to the substratum strongly so as to withstand the wind velocity," "leafy liverworts which retain lot of moisture," etc.

The most enjoyable portion of this book is the 20 figures (actually high-quality photographs) of a few species in their natural habitat although this reviewer is not sympathetic to the words "infested with" when viewing a luxuriant growth of a *Polypodium* on a tree trunk.

The 12 pages of bibliography is a good cross section of the world's literature on ferns as it pertains to the ferns of India. These references might be useful to a



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