

Flora of Florida Volume 6 (Dicotyledons, Convolvulaceae through Paulowniaceae)

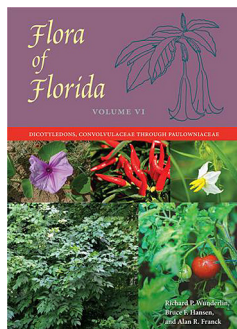
By R.P. Wunderlin, B.F. Hansen, and A.R. Franck. 2019. University Press of Florida. 372 pages, 70.00 USD, Cloth.

The monumental *Flora of Florida* project is now over half completed. With the publication in 2000 of Volume 1 and a flurry of additional publication activity in recent years (for reviews of earlier *Flora of Florida* volumes see *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 130: 248–249, 2016 [Volumes 2 and 3]; 131: 375, 2017 [Volume 4]; and 132: 68, 2018 [Volume 5]), there is but one more volume necessary to achieve complete coverage of the dicot taxa. The final three volumes treating the monocot species are then to be published. The authors' goal of having all 10 volumes in print by 2020 may not be achieved; putting out four volumes in less than a year and a half seems unlikely from both a production and marketing perspective. The good news, however, is that their ambitious completion objective may not be far off the mark.

A total of 470 species in 19 vascular plant families are treated here. That number of taxa addressed is increased by the description of additional subspecies, varieties, and/or named hybrids within particular species accounts. With the completion of Volume 6 some 2375 species have been described. All told, 62% of the 3834 species identified in Volume 1 as occurring or to have once occurred outside of cultivation in the state, have now been described. The names of a substantial number of excluded species that were reported in error or unconfirmed are also enumerated.

As within those parts of *Flora of Florida* that preceded Volume 6, effective species identification keys updated from Wunderlin's *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* (University of Florida Press, 1998) are placed immediately after each genus description. Alphabetically arranged species treatments follow, each employing up-to-date nomenclature and commencing with the detailed and comprehensive compilation of synonyms that is a trademark of *Flora of Florida*. No compilation in the present volume, however, approaches the astonishing 75 synonyms listed in Volume 3 (pp. 220–223) for *Crataegus michauxii* Persoon!

The physical characteristics of each taxon are described in the text (and keys) with precise but not overly technical terminology. The text is presented in a small but easily readable type on good quality paper within a hard cover binding. That readability is particularly important because the text is un-illustrated. This is understandable in an already voluminous



text but is nonetheless unfortunate, particularly for non-local readers who are likely less familiar with the Florida flora. Readers are encouraged to consult the online *Atlas of Florida Plants* (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu>) for photos of most taxa, however, and for more detailed range information than is in the brief statements provided here.

Habitat and (especially) other life history considerations are described sparsely, this presumably also a reflection of space limitations and cost control. That is also unfortunate for readers 'from away' who could benefit from comparing ecological characteristics of Floridian plants with those of their own local populations. As with the other treatments Volume 6 addresses many species that extend northward into southern Canada. That range limit seems to be quite accurately reflected for the most part.

The copy examined for this review was weakly bound, the spine panel separating from the side boards after minimal use. This is contrary to my experience with the firmly bound copies examined for reviews of earlier volumes, however, and likely represents an infrequent aberration.

A considerable number of taxa in Volume 6 are in families such as Convolvulaceae, Solanaceae, and (especially) Acanthaceae which typically do not contribute substantially to floristic diversity in northern areas of this continent. Some families with more prominent northern diversity are well represented however, including Plantaginaceae, Lamiaceae, and Lentibulariaceae. Floridian representation of the insectivorous genus of bladderworts (*Utricularia*, Lentibulariaceae) for instance, includes four species which occur in eastern Canada. The description of Floridian populations of taxa such as the Eastern Purple Bladderwort (*U. purpurea* Walter) suggest striking differences may exist with the Canadian populations of this species—and perhaps with others as well.

The *Flora of Florida* is a grand undertaking that is providing a valuable floristic tool applicable far beyond the limits of that state. Were Volume 6 a stand-alone analysis, however, I would not recommend it as a high priority acquisition for northern botanists because of its lesser representation of north-related taxa than seen in earlier contributions. Just the same, however, it warrants serious consideration for northern libraries as a significant component of what will undoubtedly be a classic of North American botanical literature almost immediately upon its completion.

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