The Canadian Field-Naturalist

Book Reviews

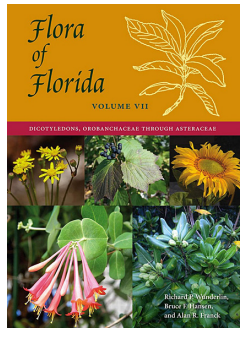
Book Review Editor's Note: *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* is a peer-reviewed scientific journal publishing papers on ecology, behaviour, taxonomy, conservation, and other topics relevant to Canadian natural history. In line with this mandate, we review books with a Canadian connection, including those on any species (native or non-native) that inhabits Canada, as well as books covering topics of global relevance, including climate change, biodiversity, species extinction, habitat loss, evolution, and field research experiences.

Currency Codes: CAD Canadian Dollars, USD United States Dollars, EUR Euros, AUD Australian Dollars, GBP British Pounds.

Botany

Flora of Florida, Volume VII: Dicotyledons, Orobanchaceae through Asteraceae

By Richard P. Wunderlin, Bruce F. Hansen, and Alan R. Franck. 2020. University Press of Florida. 492 pages, 70.00 USD, Cloth.



With the publication of Volume VII, a milestone has been reached in the monumental *Flora of Florida* project. The coverage of all dicot taxa is now complete. Only the much-anticipated monocot treatments remain outstanding, these to be completed in Volumes VIII through X.

The *Flora of Florida* project began in 2000 with the publication of Volume I (Pteridophytes and Gynmnosperms). Following a lengthy hiatus, a flurry of activity has brought the Flora to an advanced state. Reviews of Volumes II & III, IV, V, and VI can be read in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 130: 248–249 https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v130i3.1890, 131: 375 https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v131i4.2090, 132: 68 https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v132i1.2121, and 133: 70 https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v133i1.2343, respectively.The ambitious initial goal of completing the Flora in 2020 suddenly became untenable in a world reordered by the COVID-19 pandemic, but there is every reason to still expect it to be completed soon.

Volume VII describes taxa in families of major significance across North America, such as Orobanchaceae, Caprifoliaceae, and Apiaceae. The Asteraceae, however, constitute the most significant component, occupying the majority of the volume's pages. Of the approximately 800 species, subspecies, varieties, and named hybrids within the 12 families treated in the volume as a whole, some 600 taxa in 139 Asteraceae genera are presented here. The large diversity within Asteraceae genera familiar to northern botanists is startling; 21 *Solidago*, 29 *Symphyotrichum*, and 16 *Eupatorium* taxa, for example, are represented here. A listing (and explanation) for numerous excluded species that are unconfirmed or reported in error also appears at the conclusion of each generic treatment.

The comprehensive treatment of synonymy that has been a hallmark of *Flora of Florida* continues in Volume VII. Many taxa have a dozen or more synonyms listed but *Taraxacum officinale* L. tops the bill with 40 names. There would be 'only' 32 synonyms, however, had *Taraxacum erythrospermum* Andrzejowski not been combined within *T. officinale* in an unexplained contradiction of the *Flora of North America* treatment (the only taxonomic reference for the genus). The synonymy treatments in *Flora of Florida* will provide valuable information anywhere where the nomenclature of these taxa is under consideration.

Keys updated from Wunderlin's *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* (University of Florida Press, 1998) are placed immediately after each genus description, with alphabetically arranged species treatments following. Individual treatments comprise concise and usually satisfactory physical descriptions, but with only 'bare bones' distributional and ecological information. Unfortunately, there are no illustrations—not even a county map of Florida. Readers are encouraged (and will need) to consult the on-

line *Atlas of Florida Plants* (http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu) for photos and more detailed range information. This constraint reduces the effective comparison of distributional and ecological characteristics of Floridian populations with those beyond state boundaries. In that light, the English language interpretation/translation of Latin names is perhaps not the best use of limited text space. These are interesting, however. I enjoyed learning, for example, that the epithet for *Hasteola robertiorum* L.C. Anderson was selected because three botanists named Robert had studied that Florida endemic!

Although Florida is exceptionally rich in endemic and subtropical plants, a surprisingly large component of the local flora extends northward into the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. The Canadian range of such taxa appears to be accurately reported for the most part. Canadian representation is also conspicuous in the mention of taxonomists who defined many of the taxa treated here, including Bernard Boivin, Kathleen Pryer, John Packer, and especially John Semple for his work with Asteraceae.

The physical structure of the book is somewhat contradictory. On the one hand the text font is clean, easy to read, and printed on high quality paper. The cloth cover is attractive and sturdy, as befits a reference work. On the other hand, the binding on Volume VII is of surprisingly poor quality. The weak paper (not cloth) connection between the cover side boards and the spine is already separating after only light use of the review copy, as it did with the review copies of Volumes V and VI before it. Unless this is just a feature of review copies and not representative of normal production quality, that represents an unfortunate production flaw that is all the harder to understand given the high cost of an otherwise uncomplicated book. If so, let us hope this is corrected for the final three volumes.

More small glitches were noted in the factual context of this volume than in previous volumes of the Flora. The statement (p. 46) that *Lobelia spicata* Lamarck is known "only from *the* north of Florida" [emphasis mine], for example, undoubtedly was intended to state, "only north of Florida". Small words, big difference. Rogers McVaugh is erroneously described (p. 39) as the authority for *Lobelia amoena* while other botanical literature and the *Atlas of Florida Plants* cite this as *L. amoena* Michaux (1802). Although *Helianthus microcephalus* Torrey & Gray is reported to occur in Ontario (p. 275), there is no valid record reported in Canadian literature. The authority and publication date for Calyceraceae (R. Brown ex L.C. Richards 1820) are absent (p. 55), as is an explanation (p. 166) of the origin for *Brickellia* Elliott (commemorating Irish-born physician and naturalist John Brickell, 1748–1809).

Some such small issues are inevitable in a work of this complexity, however, and few if any constitute significant issues affecting the worth of this volume. And Volume VII is worthy. Indeed, it represents a particularly important component of the *Flora of Florida*. With each new volume, the Flora becomes an increasingly valuable floristic tool that is applicable far beyond the boundaries of that state, extending meaningfully all the way up here to the Great White North.

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