

Introduction

Scope of the Work

Flora of North America North of Mexico is a synoptic account of the plants of North America north of Mexico: the continental United States of America (including the Florida Keys and Aleutian Islands), Canada, Greenland (Kalâtdlit-Nunât), and St. Pierre and Miquelon. The *Flora* is intended to serve both as a means of identifying plants within the region and as a systematic conspectus of the North American flora.

The *Flora* will be published in 30 volumes. Volume 1 contains background information that is useful for understanding patterns in the flora. Volume 2 contains treatments of ferns and gymnosperms. Families in volumes 3–26, the angiosperms, are arranged according to the classification system of A. Cronquist (1981). Bryophytes will be covered in volumes 27–29. Volume 30 will contain the cumulative bibliography and index.

The first two volumes were published in 1993, Volume 3 in 1997, and Volumes 22, 23, and 26, the first three of five covering the non-grass monocotyledons, appeared in 2000, 2002, and 2002, respectively. Volume 25, the second part of the Poaceae, was published in mid 2003. The correct bibliographic citation for the *Flora* is: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+. *Flora of North America North of Mexico*. 8+ vols. New York and Oxford.

Volume 4 treats 652 species in 117 genera contained in ten families. For additional statistics, please refer to Table 1.

Contents • General

The *Flora* includes accepted names, selected synonyms, literature citations, identification keys, descriptions, chromosome numbers, phenological information, summaries of habitats and geographic ranges, and other biological observations. Economic uses, weed status, and conservation status are provided from specified sources. Each volume contains a bibliography and an index to the taxa included in that volume. The treatments, written and reviewed by experts from throughout the systematic botanical community, are based on original observations of herbarium specimens and, whenever possible, on living plants. These observations are supplemented by critical reviews of the literature.

Table 1. *Statistics for Volume 4 of Flora of North America.*

Family/ <i>Genera</i>	Total Genera	Total Species	Endemic Genera	Endemic Species	Introduced Genera	Introduced Species	Conservation Taxa
Phytolaccaceae	6	11	0	1	1	5	0
Achatocarpaceae	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nyctaginaceae	13	88	0	30	0	1	12
Aizoaceae	12	18	0	1	10	13	0
Cactaceae	34	189	2	64	3	10	39
Chenopodiaceae	27	168	4	67	7	51	21
Amaranthaceae	12	80	0	12	1	28	2
Portulacaceae	9	91	0	55	0	4	15
Basellaceae	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
Molluginaceae	2	4	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	117	652	6	230	22	115	89

Basic Concepts

Our goal is to make the *Flora* as clear, concise, and informative as practicable so that it can be an important resource for both botanists and nonbotanists. To this end, we are attempting to be consistent in style and content from the first volume to the last. Readers may assume that a term has the same meaning each time it appears and that, within groups, descriptions may be compared directly with one another. Any departures from consistent usage will be explicitly noted in the treatments (see also References).

Treatments are intended to reflect current knowledge of taxa throughout their ranges worldwide, and classifications are therefore based on all available evidence. Where notable differences of opinion about the classification of a group occur, appropriate references are mentioned in the discussion of the group.

Documentation and arguments supporting significantly revised classifications are published separately in botanical journals before publication of the pertinent volume of the *Flora*. Similarly, all new names and new combinations are published elsewhere prior to their use in the *Flora*. No nomenclatural innovations will be published intentionally in the *Flora*.

Taxa treated in full include extant and recently extinct native species, hybrids that are well established (or frequent), and waifs or cultivated plants that are found frequently outside cultivation and give the appearance of being naturalized. Taxa mentioned only in discussions include waifs or naturalized plants now known only from isolated old records and some nonnative, economically important or extensively cultivated plants, particularly when they are relatives of native species. Excluded names and taxa are listed at the ends of appropriate sections, e.g., species at the end of genus, genera at the end of family.

Treatments are intended to be succinct and diagnostic but adequately descriptive. Characters and character states used in the keys are repeated in the descriptions. Descriptions of related taxa at the same rank are directly comparable.

With few exceptions, taxa are presented in taxonomic sequence. If an author is unable to produce a classification, the taxa are arranged alphabetically, and the reasons are given in the discussion.

Treatments of hybrids follow that of one of the putative parents. Hybrid complexes are treated at the ends of their genera, after the descriptions of species.

We have attempted to keep terminology as simple as accuracy permits. Common English equivalents usually have been used in place of Latin or Latinized terms or other specialized terminology, whenever the correct meaning could be conveyed in approximately the same space, e.g., “pitted” rather than “foveolate,” but “striate” rather than “with fine longitudinal lines.” See *Categorical Glossary for the Flora of North America Project* (R. W. Kiger and D. M. Porter 2001; also available online at <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu>) for standard definitions of generally used terms. Very specialized terms are defined, and sometimes illustrated, in the relevant family or generic treatments.

References

Authoritative general reference works used for style are *The Chicago Manual of Style*, ed. 14 (University of Chicago Press 1993); *Webster’s New Geographical Dictionary* (Merriam-Webster 1988); and *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, ed. 2, unabridged (S. B. Flexner and L. C. Hauck 1987). *B-P-H/S. Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum/Supplementum* (G. D. R. Bridson and E. R. Smith 1991) has been used for abbreviations of serial titles, and *Taxonomic Literature*, ed. 2 (F. A. Stafleu and R. S. Cowan 1976–1988) and its supplements by F. A. Stafleu and E. A. Mennega (1992+) have been used for abbreviations of book titles.

Graphic Elements

All genera, and approximately 40 percent of the species in this volume, are illustrated. The illustrations may show diagnostic traits or complex structures. Most illustrations have been drawn from herbarium specimens selected by the authors. In some cases living material or photographs have been used. Data on specimens that were used and parts that were illustrated have been recorded. This information, together with the archivally preserved original drawings, is deposited in the Missouri Botanical Garden Library and is available for scholarly study.

Specific Information in Treatments

Keys

Dichotomous keys are included for all ranks below family if two or more taxa are treated. For dioecious species, keys are designed for use with either staminate or pistillate plants. Keys are designed also to facilitate identification of taxa that flower before leaves appear. More than one key may be given, and for some groups tabular comparisons may be presented in addition to keys.

Nomenclatural Information

Basionyms of accepted names, with author and bibliographic citations, are listed first in synonymy, followed by any other synonyms in common recent use, listed in alphabetical order, without bibliographic citations.

Vernacular names in common use are given in the appropriate language. In general, such names have not been coined for use in the *Flora*. Those preferred by governmental or conservation agencies are listed if known.

The last names of authors of taxonomic names have been spelled out. The conventions of *Authors of Plant Names* (R. K. Brummitt and C. E. Powell 1992) have been used as a guide for including first initials to discriminate individuals who share surnames. An exception is “Alph. Wood” instead of “A. W. Wood” (Brummitt, pers. comm.).

If only one infraspecific taxon within a species occurs in the flora area, nomenclatural information (literature citation, basionym with literature citation, relevant other synonyms) is given for the species, as is information on the number of infraspecific taxa in the species and their distribution worldwide, if known. A description and detailed distributional information are given only for the infraspecific taxon.

Descriptions

Character states common to all taxa are noted in the description of the taxon at the next higher rank. For example, if flowers are unisexual for all species treated within a genus, that character state is given in the generic description. Characters used in keys are repeated in the descriptions. Characteristics are given as they occur in plants from the flora area. Characteristics that occur only in plants from outside the flora area may be given within square brackets, or instead may be noted in the discussion following the description. In families with one genus and one or more species, the family description is given as usual, the genus description is condensed, and the species are described as usual. Any special terms that may be used when describing members of a genus are presented and explained in the genus description.

In reading descriptions, the reader may assume, unless otherwise noted, that: the plants are green, photosynthetic, and reproductively mature; woody plants are perennial; stems are erect; roots are fibrous; leaves are simple and petiolate; flowers are bisexual, radially symmetric, and pediceled; perianth parts are hypogynous, distinct, and free; and ovaries are superior. Because measurements and elevations are almost always approximate, modifiers such as “about,” “circa,” or “±” are usually omitted.

Unless otherwise noted, dimensions are length × width. If only one dimension is given, it is length or height. All measurements are given in metric units. Measurements usually are based on dried specimens but these should not differ significantly from the measurements actually found in fresh or living material.

Chromosome numbers generally are given only if published, documented counts are available from North American material or from an adjacent region. No new counts are published intentionally in the *Flora*. Chromosome counts from nonsporophyte tissue have been converted to the $2n$ form. The base number ($x =$) is given for each genus. This represents the lowest known haploid count for the genus unless evidence is available that the base number differs.

Flowering time and often fruiting time are given by season, sometimes qualified by early, mid, or late, or by months. Elevations over 50 m generally are rounded to the nearest 100 m; those 50 m and under are rounded to the nearest 10 m. Mean sea level is shown as 0 m, with the understanding that this is approximate. Elevation often is omitted from herbarium specimen labels, particularly for collections made where the topography is not remarkable, and therefore precise elevation is sometimes not known for a given taxon.

The term “introduced” is defined broadly to refer to plants that were released deliberately or accidentally into the flora and that now exist as wild plants in areas in which they were not recorded as native in the past. The distribution of non-native plants is often poorly documented and may be ephemeral.

If a taxon is globally rare or if its continued existence is threatened in some way, the words “of conservation concern” appear before the statements of elevation and geographic range.

Criteria for taxa of conservation concern are based on NatureServe’s (formerly The Nature Conservancy) — see <http://www.natureserve.org> — designations of global rank (G-rank), G1 and G2:

- G1 Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or fewer than 1000 individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.
- G2 Imperiled globally because of rarity (5–20 occurrences or fewer than 3000 individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

The occurrence of species and infraspecific taxa within political subunits of the *Flora* area is depicted by either polygonal shading, sometimes with dots to signify locations of outlying populations, or by dots placed on the outline map to indicate occurrence in a state or province (e.g., Phytolaccaceae). The Nunavut boundary on the maps has been provided by the GeoAccess Division, Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, Earth Science. Authors are expected to have seen at least one specimen documenting each geographic unit record and have been urged to examine as many specimens as possible from throughout the range of each taxon. Additional information about taxon distribution may be presented in the discussion.

Distributions are stated in the following order: Greenland; St. Pierre and Miquelon; Canada (provinces and territories in alphabetic order); United States (states in alphabetic order); Mexico (11 northern states may be listed specifically, in alphabetic order); West Indies; Bermuda; Central America (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama); South America; Europe, or Eurasia; Asia (including Indonesia); Africa; Pacific Islands; Australia; Antarctica.

Discussion

The discussion section may include information on taxonomic problems, distributional and ecological details, interesting biological phenomena, economic uses, and toxicity (see “Caution,” below).

Selected References

Major references used in preparation of a treatment or containing critical information about a taxon are cited following the discussion. These, and other works that are referred to in discussion or elsewhere, are included in Literature Cited at the end of the volume.

CAUTION

The Flora of North America Editorial Committee **does not encourage, recommend, promote, or endorse** any of the folk remedies, culinary practices, or various utilizations of any plant described within these volumes. Information about medicinal practices and/or ingestion of plants, or of any part or preparation thereof, has been included only for historical background and as a matter of interest. Under no circumstances should the information contained in these volumes be used in connection with medical treatment. Readers are strongly cautioned to remember that many plants in the flora are toxic or can cause unpleasant or adverse reactions if used or encountered carelessly.

Key to boxed codes following accepted names:

- of conservation concern
- endemic to the flora area
- illustrated
- introduced to the flora area
- weedy based mostly on R. H. Callihan et al. (1995) and/or D. T. Patterson et al. (1989)