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The Vascular Flora of Ohio
Volume Two: The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio
Part Three: Asteraceae
By T. Richard Fisher

The Asteraceae, often referred to as the sunflower family, are one of the largest flowering plant families in the world, containing over 20,000 species. The family reaches its maximum diversity in the temperate zone. In Ohio, seventy-five genera and 276 species are represented in the flora.

The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio is a comprehensive study of the sunflower family as it is known to exist in the state today. Dr. T. Richard Fisher traveled the state extensively for thirty years in order to observe and study the many species in their habitats as well as specimens represented at the larger herbaria in Ohio.

Fisher has constructed keys to aid in the identification of species and provides complete illustrations, ecological habitat descriptions, and distribution maps showing abundance and flowering period. Several alternative types of keys are provided for readers with varying levels of experience. For example, Fisher offers basic descriptive information for the layperson, while the more experienced student can begin at the generic descriptive key. Each species has been fully described and illustrated, with emphasis on detailed identifying features and a discussion of the abundance and ecology of species.

T. Richard Fisher is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Bowling Green State University (Ohio). He is the author of Introduction to Horticulture and numerous articles.

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The Biogeography of the Island Region of Western Lake Erie
Edited by Jerry F. Downhower

Lake Erie has received a great deal of attention over the past few decades. The over-exploitation and extirpation of many native fish species and the "death" and "recovery" of the lake from industrial and urban wastes are familiar stories. But surprisingly little attention has been paid to the Lake Erie Islands and their flora and fauna. The idea for a colloquium on the biogeography of the Lake Erie Islands was thus conceived, and in 1985, a symposium was held at Ohio State University, bringing together some of the people and projects long involved with the region to record what has been learned, to place that knowledge in the context of the dynamics of lake islands in particular and islands in general, and to suggest what new and promising directions should be pursued in the future.

The twenty-five papers in this volume were presented at the Ninth Biosciences Colloquium of the College of Biosciences of the Ohio State University. The conference continued over ninety years of research of the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory (located on Gibraltar Island) and was intended to encourage further biogeographical interest in the region. The papers cover such topics as the biogeographic setting, near-shore distributional patterns, insular patterns of plants and invertebrates, vertebrate distributions, migration and immigration, succession, and physiological ecology and genetics.

Jerry F. Downhower is Professor of Zoology at Ohio State University.

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