
Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora—The appearance of the second edition of Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora marks another stage in the progress of American systematic botany. The revision was made at an opportune time and has been well carried out to meet present conditions. A commendable conservatism is shown quite generally throughout the work in disregarding trivial variations and fluctuations. Much improvement is also shown in some new illustrations.

The "Illustrated Flora" will be indispensable to every working botanist in the region covered. It will be the book to which one will go for the final solution of difficult systematic problems. It is the desire of the reviewer that this manual shall be taken as the standard reference for practical work on the local flora, and the numerous plants submitted from various sources throughout the state will be referred to its nomenclature. In this way alone will confusion be avoided.

The present work appropriately follows the rules of priority disregarding the legislation of recent European congresses, which were after all not true representative bodies of the botanists of the world. Had the recent congresses been held in New York or on the Pacific coast the results, would no doubt, have been different. Strict priority will in the end give more uniform results than

partial authority. But there can be no uniformity of plant names until botanist have discovered the nature and limits of species and genera. To the reviewer, therefore, the retention of the principle of priority in the present manual is one of its commendable features, and will advance rather than retard the progress of American botany.

In the way of criticism it might be pointed out that in some cases there seems to be too great a tendency toward the division of genera and families even when they are naturally rather compact. If this process were to become as prevalent as species splitting has been recently, botanist might well despair. We would soon have local manuals of dictionary size. The study of subgenera and of the myriads of varieties and fluctuations can be accomplished without disturbing the names which are of importance to many who do not devote their entire lives to systematic questions, but who nevertheless, have daily use for the names of many of our economic species.

As in all manuals and treatises of the present time, there are various statements, contrary to the facts, inherited from the superficial past. As an example, the stamens of the Smilacaceae are rightly said to be "2-celled," but the same statement is made in regard to the Liliaceae, a number of genera of which, if not all, are known to the writer to have four microsporangia and to be quadrilocular. Nevertheless, taken all in all, the "Illustrated Flora" is one of the most comprehensive and accurate botanical works that have appeared in the present generation.

J. H. S.

Correction.—In the April number, *Juncus gerardi* Lois was inadvertently omitted. Add this species in the synopsis just before *J. dudleyi*.

***Juncus gerardi* Lois.** Gerard's Rush.

Plant rather tall and slender, tufted, with creeping root-stock; leaves flat, nonseptate, with membranous auricles; inflorescence paniculate, perianth segments obtuse; stamens 6 barely exceeded by the perianth; capsule longer than the perianth, obovoid and mucronate, trilocular; seed dark brown, acute at the base, conspicuously ribbed. In salt meadows and the vicinity of the Great Lakes. Cuyahoga County.

Add after *Smilax pseudo-china* the following:

***Smilax hispida* Muhl.** Hispid Greenbrier.

A glabrous, climbing, tendril-bearing vine with branches somewhat angled. The stem commonly bearing numerous, slender prickles; peduncle 1½ inches long; leaves thin, ovate, abruptly acute and cuspidate at the apex, obtuse or sub-cordate at the base; seven-nerved; umbel 10-25-flowered; fruit a bluish-black berry. In thickets. General.

Date of Publication, November 18, 1913.