

## BOOK REVIEW

**Endangered and Threatened Plants of Ohio**, edited by Tom S. Cooperrider, Ohio Biological Survey, Biological Notes No. 16, 484 West 12th Ave., Columbus, OH 43210 1982 92 p. \$12 (postpaid) paper.

Ohio is the latest in an ever-growing list of states to issue a publication on its endangered and threatened plants. The rash of activity in identifying the rare plants of a state received its impetus from the passage of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. In that legislation, plants were accorded equal status with animals, and the mechanism was set up where plants could be declared federally endangered or threatened. To date, about 70 plant species have been designated for inclusion on the federal list, including one from Ohio, *Aconitum noveboracense*, the northern monkshood. This single federal listing does not detract, however, from the need for Ohio and all other states, as well as federal agencies, to catalog the rarest plants that occur within their legal boundaries.

*Endangered and Threatened Plants of Ohio*, published by the Ohio Biological Survey, has been prepared by a cadre of Ohio scientists who are completely familiar with their state's plant life.

Dr. Tom Cooperrider, who edited this important publication, presents a terse account of the plight of Ohio's plants in the introduction. Explaining the need to conserve rare species, Cooperrider, quoting from the Federal Endangered Species Act, notes that plants should be preserved because of their "esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the nation and its people." The introduction defines the categories used in this publication: extirpated, endangered, threatened, potentially threatened, and status undetermined.

An important historical review of the floristic literature of Ohio is presented by Dr. Ronald Stuckey, beginning with Riddell's contribution in 1835, continuing through the works of Newberry, Beardslee, Kellerman, Werner, Schaffner, and C. H. Jones, up to the contributions of the contemporary botanists in Ohio.

The bulk of the book is devoted to an annotated listing of the endangered and threatened plants of Ohio, divided into sections on lichens, bryophytes, pteridophytes, gymnosperms, monocots, and dicots. Only the algae and fungi are excluded. It is evident that extensive research has gone into the preparation of each list. There has been an effort to verify all the

records of rare plants collected in the past.

The list of lichens, prepared by Ray Showman, contains 59 species of foliose and fruticose lichens with 13 endangered, 31 threatened, and 15 whose status is undetermined. Lichens which have been collected in only one or 2 counties since 1950, or which haven't been collected at all since 1950, qualify for the list.

Dr. Jerry Snider provides a good review of the historical development of the bryophyte flora of Ohio before enumerating the 19 endangered, 30 threatened, and 14 potentially threatened bryophytes in Ohio.

The ferns have been covered competently by William Adams, whose untimely death in 1978 came before he could see the results of his efforts. Twenty-six pteridophyte taxa are considered, plus an additional 13 rare hybrids.

Since the monocots of Ohio have been well documented and mapped by Braun in 1967 and Weishaupt in the same year, Stuckey's and Marvin L. Roberts' task of compiling the endangered and threatened monocots of Ohio was made somewhat easier. Their treatment of this interesting group is excellent. The listing includes 268 taxa, a high percentage of the total number of monocots native to Ohio.

Roberts and Cooperrider divided up the chore of studying the dicots of Ohio that qualified for listing. Their treatments are uniformly well done and give an up-to-date status report of this large group of plants.

There is little in the way of errors in the book, except rarely when the ranges of some of the species outside of Ohio are given. The habit of giving ranges based on literature reports is a hazard faced by all floristic botanists. For example, there is no indication that the sword moss, *Bryoxiphium norvegicum*, occurs in Missouri, and the rare legume, *Apios priceana*, is known from Alabama and Mississippi and possibly Illinois, in addition to Kentucky and Tennessee.

Some botanists may frown upon the policy of conjuring up common names when one probably does not exist, such as Emmons' sedge for *Carex emmonsii* and Leiberg's panic grass for *Panicum leibergii*, but there are some common names given that I hadn't known about which I am eager to use next time I see the plant in the field, such as hearts-bursting-open-with-love for *Euonymus americanus*. Also, I never felt kindly enough toward the parasitic dodders to call them love-vines, but perhaps Ohioans have a more forgiving and tolerant attitude.

*Endangered and Threatened Plants of Ohio* is an important work that should be in the hands of anyone who is responsible for manipulating our natural landscape. The contributors are to be congratulated.

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