

BOOK REVIEW

Seventh Catalog of the Vascular Plants of Ohio. T. S. Cooperrider, A. W. Cusick, and J. T. Kartesz.. 2001. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 195 p. \$65.00 hardcover, \$29.95 paper.

A checklist of vascular plants in Ohio is essential, and it has been a long time (70 years) since the last Ohio checklist was compiled, so an updated version was sorely needed. Aside from a brief introduction (6 pages) by Cooperrider, and a very interesting but equally brief (7 pages) natural history chapter by Denny and Cooperrider, the meat of this book is 77 pages of plant names. The statistical summary on page 95 shows a total of 1,785 native plants and a shocking 931 aliens. In addition, several pages of deletions from the list published in 1932 are included. Concise and up-to-date, this should be on every Ohio botanist's shelf. What a wonderful contribution to Ohio.

I would like to have seen in the statistical summary estimated changes in numbers of native and alien plants

over the years. It is clear that numbers of aliens are increasing in Ohio, and I was hoping to find more information about rates of introduction. Also, a few general paragraphs on noxious invasives would seem appropriate considering their threat to the native diversity of the Ohio flora. After all, a checklist can only be considered a snapshot in time, which highlights the importance of continued monitoring.

A copy of this book should be sent to the Governor of Ohio, Bob Taft, since it was recently announced that there would be massive budget reductions in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves will likely be hit the hardest, losing six of nine biologists. How can we continue the important work presented in the *Seventh Catalog of the Vascular Plants of Ohio* without our State's biology professionals? Ohio not only needs a checklist of vascular plants, but also needs to monitor and preserve our natural heritage.

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