
A Sketch of the Botany of South-Carolina and Georgia. *Stephen Elliott.* Introduction by *Joseph Ewan.* Hafner Publishing Co., New York. 1971 (facsimile of the 1816-1824 Edition). Vol. 1 Introduction, xxxvii+Advertisement, vi, 606 p.+XII pl.; Vol. 2 Preface, viii, 743 p.+Glossary 14 p. \$52.50.

Under the modest title, "*A Sketch . . .*," this work has long been considered the best and most complete floristic work of the early nineteenth century for the southern states, specifically South Carolina and Georgia. Based on the results of a long period of field observation and synthesis of available literature, a period beginning about 1800, each plant species is adequately and concisely described in both Latin and English. Information on habitats, localities, phenology, contributors, literature references, common names, and sometimes on medicinal and economic uses makes Elliott's work a substantial contribution. The arrangement of the taxa is that of the Linnaean Sexual System.

In the concise but detailed introduction, Professor Ewan gives the facts necessary for the use of this reference work for the present-day working taxonomist. He reviews the history of the writing of the *Sketch* and how its contents influenced and were used in later North American Floras. A brief history of Elliott's plant collections, now housed in the Charleston Museum, is presented. Short biographical comments and/or sources to biographical notes and specimens of Elliott's 32 contributors are given, followed by an enumeration of 155 taxa described as new to science by Elliott, a number based on recent studies of Elliott's herbarium by Weatherby (*Rhodora* 44: 249-262, 1942) and Smith (*Proc. Am. Philos. Soc.* 106: 443-460, 1962). However, McVaugh's study (*Rhodora* 40: 175-177, 1938) on the genus *Lobelia* in Elliott's herbarium is not mentioned. The botanical references cited in the *Sketch* and the involved period during the history of its publication (from 1816 to 1824) are discussed, with tables enumerating the pages from the *Sketch* and their dates of publication, an all-important aspect of taxonomic study where priorities of names of new taxa are concerned. This point is particularly critical because Elliott issued two versions of number 1 of volume 1, with numerous nomenclatural changes in the second version. Elliott's life is summarized in a chronology. Forty-seven references, mostly annotated, document Ewan's introduction and give a working Elliott bibliotheca for future biohistorians.

Response to Elliott's *Sketch* by his contemporaries was generally favorable, the publication being considered a "model among those [local] Floras." Being a work in which the author, self-trained in botany, acknowledges that he had no access to Botanic Gardens, was able to consult but a very few costly reference works or journals, and had no opportunity of inspecting any herbarium, Elliott's *Sketch* still stands as a monument to southern botany in the United States. This reprint is volume 6 in the *Classica Botanica Americana* Series, which will consist of seven facsimile volumes (plus two supplements) of early and important North American Floras with authoritative introductions by Professor Ewan. First issued in 1967, this series, before completion, now awaits publication of volumes 2 (Pursh's 1814 *Flora Americae Septentrionalis*) and 3 (Michaux's 1803 *Flora Boreali-Americana*).

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