
Catalog of Illinois Algae

The advancement of knowledge of any group of living organisms is proportionate to the time and effort expended by individuals who collect, identify, describe and record their findings in such a manner that their colleagues may judge critically their own labors. Periodically, if these researches are to retain their intrinsic value, it becomes imperative that they be criticized in the light of new discoveries and integrated into a workable whole. Dr. Britton has accomplished this to a remarkable degree for the algae of Illinois.

The 962 entries are distributed through 178 genera and constitute, with the exception of fifty names whose validity or taxonomic position are inconsistent with modern algal interpretation, a review of all Illinois algae. A detailed review and classification of the literature concerning the state provides a basic starting point for future taxonomic studies. Each species in the compendium is accompanied by detailed distribution data concerning the exact locality within the County, the collector and the date of collection. Such data will be of inestimable value to the Illinois Alogolgist and of only slightly less interest to his co-workers in other states.

—C. E. Taft.

A Catalog of Illinois Algae, by Max E. Britton. Northwestern University Studies in the Biological Sciences and Medicine, No. 2. 1944. \$3.00.