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Book Reviews

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This excellent facsimile reprint of the 1944 edition (Comstock Publishing Company, Inc.) again makes available a book that has been out of print for many years. Matheson's 1944 revision of his 1929 edition was a conservative one; this was particularly true of the chapters on the biology of mosquitoes, their relation to human welfare, and the problem of mosquito reduction. This fact plus the tremendous literature that has appeared since 1944 means that this book is mainly of historical interest.

Carl Venard


This identification guide provides a dichotomous key, short descriptions, large line drawings, and small distribution maps for 88 selected species of aquatic vascular plants (excluding grasses and rushes), two species of aquatic liverworts, and two genera of algae that grow in Illinois. Generally one or two contrasting characters, usually vegetative, are provided in each lead of the key. A glossary and five diagrams aid in the interpretation of pertinent descriptive terms, and numbered short descriptive phrases refer to corresponding structures on the quarter- to half-page-size drawings of the plants. State-wide distribution is shown by stippling on a small map of Illinois.

This book does not include all of the aquatic plants of Illinois, but treats those species or genera most frequently encountered by biologists, such as those involved in conservation, wildlife management, or fisheries research. Ohio biologists should find it useful because, of the 88 species treated, only six (Asotil mexicana, Bacopa rotundifolia, Hippuris vulgaris, Isotes melanopoda, Jussiaea repens, and Limnobium majus) are not known from Ohio.

Data on the geographical distribution of Illinois aquatic plants in the form of dot maps, specific locations for certain species, or detailed descriptions of marsh and aquatic habitats, as well as more defined technical descriptions of the species treated, are not included. References to more detailed works are given throughout the text and in a summary bibliography.

Ronald L. Stuckey