

## FLORA OF OHIO

Plans have been made for the preparation of a "Flora of Ohio." The project was initiated by The Ohio Academy of Science and is to be carried out by a committee of the Academy in cooperation with representatives or collaborators from various botany or biology departments throughout Ohio. The plans were outlined at the Ohio Academy meetings at Miami University in April, and cooperation solicited in locating herbaria available for study and distribution data.

As a result of information sent in on blanks distributed at that time, over 20,000 herbarium specimens (exclusive of the Ohio State Herbarium at Columbus) have been located. If you have an herbarium, are willing to cooperate, and have not yet sent information concerning your herbarium, please do so as soon as possible.

The "Flora of Ohio" is to contain all plants, native and naturalized, known to occur in Ohio. It will contain keys to families, genera, and species, diagnostic notes (when those in the keys are insufficient), and data on habitat. It will contain maps giving distribution (by counties) of each Ohio species. In order that these maps be as complete as possible, your help is needed for records in your part of Ohio.

Because of the tremendous size of the project before us, we shall start work by selecting certain units of the flora, completing these in turn, and finally assembling the whole. Work on the project as a whole is not to be discontinued because of concentration on separate units. The first unit will be "Trees and Shrubs of Ohio"—to include all native and naturalized woody plants of Ohio (approximately 300 species).

Mimeographed county lists are being prepared at Ohio State University (based upon material in the State Herbarium), and will be made available as soon as possible. With these in hand, you will doubtless find that specimens of many common species are lacking for your county; try to fill such gaps by local collecting.

In order to assemble information on herbarium specimens available, and to facilitate further study of these specimens, the committee is asking that an "herbarium slip" be made out for *each specimen* in your herbarium, and sent, at your earliest convenience, to the chairman of the Ohio Flora committee. (Printed forms will be supplied for this purpose.) While many nomenclatorial changes will have to be made, and many determinations rechecked, these assembled herbarium slips will be the basis for a card catalog record of all Ohio herbarium material. This card catalog will be of value to future monographers who may wish to locate all available material for study; it will enable the committee to relocate all specimens of any species, if further study should be necessary before the completion of the Flora. (Changes in interpretation of species constantly appear in our taxonomic journals.)

The project we are outlining is a big one; it would be a life-work if carried out by one person. It is hoped that, with cooperation of Ohio botanists, progress may be rapid.

### COMMITTEE ON A "FLORA OF OHIO."

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