

## Flora of Florida Volume 5 (Dicotyledons, Gisekiaceae through Boraginaceae)

By R.P. Wunderlin, B.F. Hansen and A.R. Franck. 2018. University Press of Florida. 303 pages. 69.95 USD, Cloth.

With the publication of Volume V of the *Flora of Florida*, this monumental project is half way there. There was a long pause after the 2000 publication of the first part (*Flora of Florida Volume I, Pteridophytes and Gymnosperms*, University Press of Florida) but a flurry of production has seen Volumes II through V released in the last three years (see reviews of the earlier volumes in *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 130: 248–240, <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v130i3.1890> and 131: 375–376, <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v131i4.2090>). Two more volumes will need to be published to complete coverage of the pteridophytes, gymnosperms, and dicots. Then three more volumes treating monocots will still be required—so there is much ground to be covered yet. But with the half-way point reached, the authors' ambitious goal of having all ten volumes in print by 2020 may yet be achievable.

The vascular plant species of approximately 400 taxa in 34 families are treated here, including numerous species in major groups with northern components such as Ericaceae, Cornaceae, Rubiaceae, Sarraceniaceae, and Apocynaceae. The physical characteristics of each taxon presented in this sturdily bound, hard-cover book are described with precise but not overly technical terminology, presented in small but easily-readable type. This is particularly important because the text is unillustrated. Readers are encouraged to consult the on-line *Atlas of Florida Plants* (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu>) for photos of most taxa and for more detailed range information than is provided by the adequate but brief summaries in the text. Nomenclatural detail is a strength of the *Flora of Florida* project in general and this volume is no different, with quite exhaustive synonymy being provided for many species. The 46 synonyms identified for Deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*) might be a record for any species treated so far!

As before, effective species identification keys, taken or updated from Wunderlin's *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*, published in 1998 by University of Florida Press, are placed immediately after each genus description. Alphabetically arranged species treatments follow, each beginning with the aforementioned comprehensive synonym. The sheer number of rare and endemic taxa described in this volume dramatically underscores the remarkable biodiversity of Florida. Although there appear to be fewer subspecific taxa treated in Volume V than in earlier installments, the authors seem to strike a middle ground along the lumping-splitting spectrum. They do not accept recent fine splitting of some long-established and particularly complex taxa (e.g., *Opuntia humifusa*, p. 37). In most such cases at least, they explain their reasons for doing this and note alternative interpretations.

As with the other volumes, this treatment addresses many species that reach southern Canada and northern range limits seem to be reflected quite accurately for the most part. These treatments provide Canadian botanists with an interesting regional perspective and context “from away” which can be quite different from our own. The treatment of over two dozen species of milkweed (*Asclepias*; pp. 212–224), for example, puts the smaller Canadian diversity of that genus into startling perspective, to say nothing of discussions of over a dozen pitcher plant (*Sarracenia*) taxa (pp. 102–108).

Let us hope the momentum for completing the *Flora of Florida* holds up and the remaining five volumes are indeed released by the end of 2020. For now, however, we can appreciate and celebrate this latest excellent contribution towards that goal of enumerating and describing the vascular plants of one of the most floristically diverse parts of our continent.

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