

to those who follow grass taxonomy, including the segregations and realignments of species within genera in the tribe Stipeae.

The content of the book generally is of high quality, and, as much as is possible with a group of plants that has its own set of descriptive terminology, the text and keys are readable with jargon minimized. There are occasional inconsistencies in the text; for example, in the treatment of *Digitaria sanguinalis*, under Origin, the species is said to be native, but in the Comments section, it is stated to be "a European species now established as a global weed." I detected relatively few proof-reading errors (e.g., synonym not italicized, punctuation misplaced, rare spelling errors), and these do not detract substantively from the book.

This book provides a welcome updated treatment of the grasses of Colorado. In spite of the fact that there is a recent North American taxonomic treatment

of the family, there will always be a need for regional and local treatments, especially for large and diverse families such as this. The book should prove to be useful for the identification of grasses in several adjacent states, including much of the upper Midwest, from Montana to North Dakota and south to Kansas. It should also be useful in the southern portions of the Prairie Provinces.

Literature Cited

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- Barkworth, M. E., K. M. Capels, S. Long, and M. B. Piep, Editors. 2003. Flora of North America North of Mexico. Volume 25. *Magnoliophyta: Commelinidae* (in part): *Poaceae*, part 2. Oxford University Press, New York. xxv + 783 pages.

WILLIAM J. CRINS

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks, 300 Water St., Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5 Canada

The Macrolichens of New England

By James W. Hinds and Patricia L. Hinds. 2007. *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* Volume 96. New York Botanical Garden Press, Bronx, New York. 608 pages, 65.00 USD Cloth.

The most recent publication on lichens from the New York Botanical Garden is the first detailed treatment of New England macrolichens. Before the reader even opens *The Macrolichens of New England* the 14 beautiful photos on the front and back covers give the sense that it is something special. This much-awaited guide, drawing on 35 years of collected photos and knowledge of the lichenologist team of James and Patricia Hinds, describes and illustrates the lichen flora from a very unique region rich in lichen flora. The Hinds share with the reader a plethora of information ranging from specific species treatments to general lichen biology so it appeals to the serious professional and novice alike.

A quick key index inside the front cover provides the reader with direct access to a group or classification of their choice; a useful tool allowing this book to be used strictly as a field guide. The front sections should not be overlooked as they provide, in much the same way as I. M. Brodo, S. D. Sharnoff, and S. Sharnoff (2001) *Lichens of North America*, 70 pages of useful information that will inform and help the reader to explore the world of lichenology. These early chapters provide essays on anatomy, ecology, lichen conservation and population trends, and identification. The general key section follows the background (approximately 30 pages) which will direct you into the genus descriptions (some 400 pages). The extensive references cited, glossary, two appendixes, and index, organized by Latin name, round out the book.

A total of 502 species is covered, including 308 with colour photos. Some of these species are extremely

rare, not typically described in literature of this type. Included are species found in adjacent localities, which could occur in the region of study. Microlichens are briefly discussed in the introductory chapters but are not treated with the same detail as the macrolichens. Many of the species discussed have coastal affinities, with many others found inland, making this book a great resource for readers interested in species across the entire continent.

For the most part the photos are stunning, and beautiful, capturing key identification features needed for the reader to compare species observed or collected with the photos in the book and make accurate and correct identifications. Capturing the entire depth of field in macro photography is a common problem and generally the authors do a great job. Some of the images, however, suffer from poor depth of field sharpness and have blurred or fuzzy portions. (i.e., figures 111, 165, 272). There are many more stunning and beautiful images with great depth of field than with out. Species described without an image include a reference, when available, to another source where a photo was provided.

Two omissions of occurrence records should be noted. One was on page 51. When describing the rarity of *Leptogium rivulare* the authors suggest that the most recently known collections occurred in the early 1970s (Southern Ontario); however, collections of this species occurred in the early 2000s (Southern Ontario 2002 and Manitoba in 2003) and more recently in Southern Ontario in 2007 (not published). The second was a reference to the distribution of *Xanthoria parietina*, page 525, which is described as restricted to oceanic coastal areas. In general this is true but recent inland discoveries, including records in Southern Ontario (2002 and 2006); have been documented.

Using photographs only for identification can result in a misidentified specimen. In *The Macrolichens of New England* the blend of text and images will enable the user to avoid this error. There are incredible photos of very rare lichens not typically seen by the average lichenologist. The paired photo examples of various species showing the upper and lower surface (*Peltigera* sp.), wet thallus versus dry thallus (i.e., *Placidium arboretum*, *Physconia detersa*, and *Pyxine sorediata*), and macro versus micro features (i.e., *Leptogium*, *Sterocaulon*, *Usnea*) make this book incredibly valuable because some of these species can only be separated by comparing these features.

The book is 7 ½ inches wide 10 ¼ inches long and 1 ½ inches deep. It weighs approximately 2.0 kg. Although the book is by no means light, it is a more manageable field guide than Brodo et al., which is

roughly twice the size and weight, making this book a more welcome field companion. I have toted both into backwoods locations and appreciated the size and weight difference. It has a hard durable cover with a small ruler drawn on the last page that could be used for field measurements. If taken into the field, however, the glossy covers will inevitably get scratched as there is no slip cover to protect it.

The authors tout this book as the “the most comprehensive work of its kind” and they deliver. This book, like Brodo et al., will be an instant classic. Those who read this book will have no choice but to be drawn into the world of these fascinating organisms.

CHRIS LEWIS

16 Prospect Street, P.O. Box 1384, Lakefield, Ontario
K0L 2H0 Canada

Wild Plants of Eastern Canada

By Marilyn Walker. 2008. Nimbus Publishing Ltd., P.O. Box 9166, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 5M8. 202 pages, 24.95 CAD.

Wild Plants of Eastern Canada was not what I expected. I was looking forward to another wild plant field guide, a cross-referencing source, a book offering additional details and visuals to aid in identifying those hard-to-pin-down native asters and goldenrods. That's not what *Wild Plants of Eastern Canada* is about.

My first reaction to the book was, consequently, mild annoyance – which developed into growing curiosity, then pleasant surprise the further I read. *Wild Plants of Eastern Canada* turns out to be more than a wild plant identification guide. Divided into three parts – (1) “Plants and People of the Northeast”, (2) “Field Guide”, (3) “Recipes” – the book is a human and natural history, an identification tool (of sorts), and a recipe book.

Part 2, the “Field Guide”, takes up the most pages. It contains extensive information on each plant profiled, including scientific and “other” names, general information about the plant family, habitat details, a physical description of the plant, and, depending on the species, sections on usable parts, common uses, medicinal properties, and garden-related particulars. The accompanying black-and-white photographs are helpful, while the leaf prints add a subtle artistic touch.

The recipes covering almost 40 pages in Part 3 of *Wild Plants of Eastern Canada* are intriguing. They range from “classics” such as teas and bannock, to preparations using petals, buds, roots, and berries. I have not yet had the opportunity to test any of them, but I am looking forward to trying out goldenrod crepes, dandelion leaf sandwiches, and clover butter.

Part 1 of the book I found the most interesting and most trying. It was there, not far into the section, that I discovered the book's most frustrating limitation: its geographical scope. I had assumed the “Eastern

Canada” part of the book's title to refer to the usual territory stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the western end of Ontario. Yet *Wild Plants of Eastern Canada* ends up covering the Maritime provinces only — not a bad thing if that is what the reader is expecting. But as a Quebec resident, I was hoping my region was included in the book.

The rest of the information in Part 1 comes as a pleasant surprise. Rich in historical and anthropological detail, it provides a succinct and comprehensive overview of Atlantic Canada's paleoenvironment, European settlement, and Aboriginal history and culture, including First Nations traditional plant knowledge.

I found the first sub-section, “Like Plants, Like People” the most intriguing. There, the author writes: “Like people, plants are great colonizers. They wander about, singly or in “herds”, trying out new conditions until they find somewhere to settle in. If the environment is not suitable, they go elsewhere out of necessity, or perhaps out of the same sense of adventure that inspired human migration” — an intriguing, and for me appealing, perspective.

My main gripe with the book is its main title. *Wild Plants of Eastern Canada* is misleading, and the extra text on the front and back covers does not provide any clues regarding the geographical scope of the book. Yet for individuals able to get their hands on it, the smaller typeface on the front cover — “Identifying, Harvesting and Using”, “Includes recipes & medicinal uses” — provides helpful hints regarding the book's content.

Wild Plants of Eastern Canada is a welcome addition to the wild plants section of my bookshelves, despite its limitations and frustrations.

RENATE SANDER-REGIER

3, 11th Line, Bristol, Quebec J0X 1G0 Canada