

## Illustrated Flora of British Columbia Volumes 1-8

Edited by G. W. Douglas, G. B. Straley, D. Meidinger and J. Pojar (Volumes 1-2); G. W. Douglas, D. Meidinger and J. Pojar (Volumes 3-8). 1998-2002. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and Ministry of Forests (Volumes 1-6), Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and Ministry of Forests (Volumes 7-8.), Victoria, British Columbia.

Volume 1, Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons (Aceraceae through Asteraceae). 1998. 436 pages.

Volume 2, Dicotyledons (Balsaminaceae through Cuscutaceae) 1998. 401 pages.

Volume 3, Dicotyledons (Diapensiaceae through Onagraceae). 1999. 423 pages.

Volume 4, Dicotyledons (Orobanchaceae through Rubiaceae). 1999. 427 pages.

Volume 5, Dicotyledons (Salicaceae through Zygophyllaceae) and Pteridophytes. 2000. 389 pages.

Volume 6, Monocotyledons (Acoraceae through Najadaceae). 2001. 361 pages.

Volume 7, Monocotyledons (Orchidaceae through Zosteraceae). 2001. 379 pages.

Volume 8, General Summary, Maps and Keys. 2002. 457 pages.

The eight volumes are all in soft cover and measure about 28 × 21.5 cm and a total of 20.5 cm. They are the result of a tremendous amount of work on the flora of the Canadian province which has the largest number of plant taxa in its terrain. This Flora of British Columbia treats 139 families which contain 752 genera with 2717 species plus subspecies and varieties, of which 677 are introduced.

The first seven volumes all have the same introductory information: a foreword regarding the biological diversity of Canada's most western province, the initiation of the co-operative research program in 1992 and 1995, a title page, Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data, Contributors, Acknowledgments, Table of Contents, Introduction, Format, a figure of Geographical Regions of British Columbia, Database and Taxonomic Concepts.

The order of the family groups, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons, Pteridophytes and Monocotyledons in these seven volumes can be found in the title information above. Within each group, the families are in alphabetical order with a key to the genera which are then treated in alphabetical order and the species in each genus are keyed and treated in alphabetical order. The description of each species begins with the scientific name in bold face italics followed by synonyms, if any, in regular italics. The next line provides the common name or names in bold face regular print. Below this are HABITAT/Range with inset information and

DESCRIPTION with separate lines inset for information under the following headings: General, Leaves, Flowers and Fruits.

The bulk of the first seven volumes is devoted to the generic keys and the most useful descriptive information of usually three species on the left hand pages and excellent line drawings of those species opposite on the right hand pages. This is followed by a list of references, Appendix 1 – Excluded Species, Appendix 2 – Name Changes, Glossary and an Index. Unfortunately, the authors were not provided proofs for the first two volumes before these were printed.

Volume 8 has Acknowledgments, a Table of Contents, a short introduction, a table listing the Composition of the Flora by families, genera, species, subspecies, varieties, native taxa, and introduced taxa of the whole flora, Phytogeography which includes information on Cosmopolitan Species, Bipolar Disjuncts, Circumpolar Species, Amphiberingian Species, North American Maritime Species, North American Radiants, Cordilleran Species, Alaska-Yukon-Northwestern British Columbia Endemics, Pacific Coast Endemics and British Columbia Endemics. This is followed by a useful Key to Families of Vascular Plants in British Columbia, a Key to Aquatic/Semi-aquatic plants in British Columbia and related references.

This is then followed by an Addenda/Errata chapter of 52 pages which provides information on minor corrections in the first seven volumes, 16 new taxa now known from the province and 13 new illustrations for taxa previously recorded for the province.

Distribution maps are provided in the eighth volume for 2871 vascular plant species. Dots and circles depicting known populations are approximately 70 km in diameter and may mask many sites in the same area. In the case of trees, shaded polygons are provided in lieu of dots. The circles appearing on some of the rare vascular plant maps indicate that the collection at the site was taken prior to 1950. An index to the families, genera, species, subspecies and varieties treated in the eight volumes completes the work.

The authors are to be congratulated for their efforts in completing this enormous work.

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