

REVIEW

WUNDERLIN R. P., AND B. F. HANSEN. 2011. *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*. Third Edition. (ISBN: 978-0-8130-3543-7, hardback). University Press of Florida, 15 NW 15th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32611-2079. www.upf.com. \$44.95. 783 pp.

The third edition of the *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* by Wunderlin and Hansen provides a timely update of the second (2003) edition. Although ca. 100 more taxa are treated, the third edition is actually four pages shorter than the second. Florida's flora, according to the statistical summary located near the end of the book after the Descriptive Flora, comprises a total of 4,255 taxa, including species, infraspecific taxa, and hybrids. Of these, about 67% (2,857 taxa) are indigenous, and about 5% (229 taxa) are endemic.

The scope of the third edition is essentially unchanged from the second, i.e., the treatment of all indigenous vascular plants known from Florida, as well as non-indigenous taxa that occur spontaneously in the state. Each taxon included in the *Guide* is based upon a voucher specimen preserved in a herbarium, or a citation in an authoritative reference. Taxa are organized into the traditional major groups: pteridophytes, gymnosperms, monocots, and dicots. Families, genera, and species within each group are arranged alphabetically. Derived from the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II (Bot. J. Linn. Soc. 141: 399–436. 2003), family circumscriptions are current. Modifications in family circumscriptions between second and third editions are conveniently summarized in the Introduction. Identification keys are provided, enabling the user first to determine an unknown specimen to family, then to genus, and then to species, and, where applicable, to infraspecific taxon. The authors state that taxonomic interpretations are “generally in accord with recent literature.” However, unfortunately, they do not specify what recent literature was used. Where nomenclature differs from standard manuals covering the state's flora, the authors provide pertinent synonymy from these sources. Common names are cited, and abbreviated habitat data are noted. Distributions of species are systematically described and complement those in Wunderlin and Hansen's excellent on-line *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* (www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu). Cursory data on reproductive season is given for each taxon. Endemic and exotic taxa are denoted, along with the rationale for designating taxa as such. Nothotaxa are treated, and their parentage cited. Following the extensive descriptive flora are a statistical synopsis, a glossary of scientific terms, and separate indices of common names and scientific names.

Conveniently, a state outline map, showing the locations of Florida counties and an alphabetical index to families and their page numbers are provided inside the front and back covers, respectively. An imprint of a metric scale would also have been useful. One annoying departure from the second edition is the omission of plant family names from the top of each page of the

Descriptive Flora, a feature that was, and would have been, very helpful to locate the families quickly.

The physical qualities of the book are excellent, exemplifying the high standards of the University Press of Florida. The book is printed on acid-free paper, with a sturdy binding. The cover is visually appealing and plasticized, and it will surely prove to be more resistant to the elements than that of the previous editions, although I have not field-tested it yet.

This book is a remarkable achievement. Although my geographical focus is primarily the coastal plain region of Georgia, I have found the first and second editions of the *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* indispensable and handy references both in the field and in the herbarium. I anticipate the third edition will be equally useful.—Richard Carter, Herbarium (VSC), Biology Department, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA 31698-0015, U.S.A.