

plant has escaped from cultivation, for example: in Marin County, California (Howell, 1949, p. 97) and in Costa Rica (Standley, 1937, p. 146).

It is, therefore, concluded from this study that *Pseudohomalomena pastoensis* A. D. Hawkes is a synonym of *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (L.) Spreng., the common White Calla Lily, a native of South Africa.

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LITERATURE CITED

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REVIEW

How to Know the Grasses. By RICHARD W. POHL. 192 pp., 1954. Wm. C. Brown Company, Dubuque, Iowa. Spiral binding, \$2.00; cloth binding, \$2.75.

This most recent addition to the "Pictured-Key Nature Series" treats 293 of "... the commonest and most important species of American grasses — those that the beginner is most apt to meet, and those of importance in farming, gardening, weed control, range and pasture management. In addition to those keyed and illustrated, 91 others are mentioned in connection with closely related species, and their distinguishing features are pointed out."

The book has a most helpful introductory section which points out (in a compact, illustrated key) the differences between the Juncaceae, Gramineae, and Cyperaceae and which also functions as an illustrated glossary for the more common terms the student must know to begin a study of the grasses. This introductory section is made more complete by the inclusion of a brief bibliography of useful books on grasses, several pages of directions for the collection and study of these plants, and a well illustrated key to the tribes of this family.

The pictured keys to the species seem to be workable and well constructed. However, the somewhat arbitrary selection of species necessitated by the geographic scope of the book may sometimes limit accurate field use of the book for identification to the species level.

For example: *Andropogon elliottii*, found in southern Illinois, would key to *A. virginicus*; and a student, not knowing the frequency of occurrence of *A. elliottii* and possibly not heeding the author's note that "about fourteen other similar species or varieties occur in the southeastern states," might assume his work to be completed correctly. For the beginning student, however, such a mistake would probably be of no great consequence.

The many grasses which are "common locally" throughout the United States could obviously not be included in this beginner's book, and for this reason its greatest value, other than the text value of the introduction, will be in supervised field work and in class use to key out selected grasses. Within this scope, its content, size, and price should make it a popular member of the series and useful in a wide geographical area.—C. RITCHIE BELL, Department of Botany, University of Illinois, Urbana.



Bell, C. Ritchie. 1955. "How to Know the Grasses by Richard W. Pohl."
Madroño; a West American journal of botany 13, 48–48.

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