

Herbaceous Dicots. The families (and their genera) are arranged alphabetically within major groups, with the monocots appearing last. This is very practical for rapid finding of family and genus. The genera of Compositae are strictly alphabetical, but the grasses are arranged by tribe. Short commentaries on field observations are frequent with conscientious attention to ecology and distribution within the Front Range. Occasional synonyms are given and there are references to the second edition of the *Handbook* when there has been a change in name.

The illustrations by C. F. Yocom are an asset. The introduction and glossary use 78 of the 346 figures; thus, about 18 percent of the taxa are illustrated. The supplemental dissections or blow-ups shown beside the main drawings, which could have been helpful to beginners, are nowhere explained.

Weber has succeeded in presenting a handy and attractive two-fisted means for finding names of plants in the Front Range. The area where generally applicable is substantially greater than that of the Front Range; but both the area and the style are similar to those of the author's earlier *Handbook* and it would have seemed appropriate for this to have been the illustrated third edition without change of title. This volume distills much personal experience and is a welcome addition to the books on plants of the Rocky Mountains.—WALLACE R. ERNST, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

*Taxonomy of Flowering Plants*. 2nd ed. By C. L. PORTER. ix + 472 pp., 400 plates (311 individual and sets of line drawings, 88 black & white photographs, 1 color photograph). W. H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco. 1967. \$6.75.

The second edition of this popular text, now in a more readable print, is basically the same as the first edition, with few significant changes, but with numerous small refinements. Since Mooring's discriminating review of the contents and format of the first edition (Madroño 16:171-172) could apply equally appropriately to the second edition, this brief review pertains primarily to the refinements in the second edition.

In Part I, which deals with History, Principles and Methods, a brief discussion of chemical and numerical taxonomy has been added to the chapter on Concepts of Taxa. 63 additional entries are found in the lists of references at the end of chapters; charts have been improved in format, and boldface type has been substituted for italics wherever definitions occur. Part II, which covers "Selected Orders and Families of Monocotyledons" includes several additional examples of certain taxa plus three subclass descriptions. In Part III, which deals with "Selected Orders and Families of Dicotyledons," further examples of taxa, along with keys to the families of the Ranales and the "Tribes of the Asteraceae (Compositae)," have been added. A floral diagram has been corrected, and a qualifying statement on the Apetalae has been inserted.

Throughout the book, illustrations have been renumbered in groups with parts a, b, c, etc., instead of each individual illustration being numbered consecutively; several black and white photographs have been added, and the clarity of most of the photographs has been improved.

The second edition, like the first, contains few errors, and, despite minor reservations about the author's continued use of Fabaceae, Lamiaceae, etc., instead of traditional family names, impresses this reviewer as being an excellent text, if not the best available, for introductory taxonomy courses, especially those of less than a year's duration. The clear floral diagrams and line drawings will also be found very useful in lengthier introductory courses, but instructors would probably want to supplement the material on history and principles in such instances.—KINGSLEY R. STERN, Department of Biological Sciences, Chico State College, Chico, California.



Stern, Kingsley R. 1969. "Taxonomy of Flowering Plants. 2nd ed by C. L. Porter." *Madroño; a West American journal of botany* 20, 30–30.

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