

Index to Plant Distribution Maps in North American Periodicals through 1972

Compiled by W. Louis Phillips and Ronald L. Stuckey.
1976. G. K. Hall and Co., Boston. xxxvii + 686 pp.
U.S. \$121.

Plant distribution maps are invaluable resources for biogeographers and biosystematists, providing insights into evolutionary histories and barriers to interbreeding. For naturalists and conservationists, they indicate which species can be expected to occur within areas of interest and which may be locally noteworthy or rare. Taxonomists and naturalists generally will welcome the publication of this index. It will be useful not only for the specific purpose of locating maps but also as a guide to literature on the respective taxa. There have been numerous occasions in my own research and in dealing with requests for information when such an index would have been most helpful.

The 268 journal titles listed (some merely name changes) represent a prodigious effort in searching as many North American periodicals carrying botanical articles as possible, including not only the well-known taxonomic journals but also many state academy journals, amateur naturalists' magazines, and short-lived private publications. Thirty Canadian titles are

listed. Because only journals published in Canada and the United States are covered, some maps of plant distribution in other parts of the world are indexed, and maps of North American taxa published elsewhere are not. A list of books containing plant distribution maps appears as a supplement.

The 28 772 entries appear alphabetically by scientific names, adhering to those used by the authors of the cited papers. Each entry includes the journal title, volume, page number, and year of publication, the type of map (e.g., dot or shaded), the geographic area covered, and the author's name. Maps of both vascular and lower plants are indexed.

This index is printed on good-quality paper, and is sturdily bound. Among books reproduced by offset from typed cards, it is extraordinarily neat and attractive. Its price will deter most individuals from purchasing this index, but it should be acquired by libraries wherever research in plant systematics and biogeography is conducted.

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A Dictionary of Useful and Everyday Plants and Their Common Names

By F. N. Howes. 1974. Cambridge University Press, New York. 289 pp. \$12.95.

Anyone who has ever used *A Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Ferns* by J. C. Willis, 6th edition, 1931, will want to have a copy of this new book by F. N. Howes. When the already voluminous 1931 *Dictionary* was revised in 1966 so much new technical information on generic and family names had to be included that information on common names of plants and plant products had to be omitted. This omission was sorely felt by scientists and by users alike. F. N. Howes, then Keeper of the Museum of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, England, undertook to fill that gap. He updated the material left out of recent editions by Willis and added so much new information that this volume now contains more than twice as many entries as before.

Each entry is the English name of a plant, part of a plant, a plant product, or the name of some person or condition associated with plants, or rarely, the botanical name of a plant. Entries are arranged in alphabetical order and have been accumulated from all over the world where English is or has been used or spoken. Each is accompanied by a brief but usually adequate description or definition plus the genus and

species or just the genus of the plants involved. Where the same name refers to different products or species in different parts of the world, the country or region is indicated for each (e.g., Aust. for Australia, SE U.S. for southeastern United States of America, N. Am. for North America). There is a reasonable amount of cross-referencing as well. In many instances one common name merely refers to a second common name at which is found the definition and botanical name. Compound names, consisting of two or more words, are usually entered alphabetically by the first word only, e.g., "Thyme, common or garden *Thymus vulgare*" is defined under the "T's" but "water thyme" (*Anacharis*, *Elodea*) is found only under "W"; "Ash pumpkin" appears only under "A," not under "P." Fortunately, however, many entries are included under both letters, although sometimes incompletely so, such as "Prickly ash" which, under "A" refers to "*Zanthoxylum* spp.; *Aralia spinosa*:" but under "P" refers only to "*Zanthoxylum* spp."

Coverage tends to be better for plants of the United Kingdom, Africa, Australia, and the USA than of Canada or the Indian subcontinent. Although many Canadian native plants, cultivated introductions and introduced weeds are included, this seems to be largely



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