

change in taxonomic judgement, which is not necessarily accepted by all botanists. An example of the latter is his adoption of the genus *Toxicodendron* and his recognition of the different races of poison ivy as distinct species even although Mulligan and Junkins (1978, *Le Naturaliste canadien* 105: 291–293) have provided evidence that specific rank is inappropriate. This leads to his use of *T. radicans* and *T. rydbergii* where others would use *Rhus radicans* subsp. (or var.) *radicans* and *R. radicans* subsp. (or var.) *rydbergii*. Indeed Hyppio seems, in this case, to have confused two taxa that Muenscher correctly distinguished. Muenscher has "*R. microcarpa* Steud.", "*R. radicans* L.", and "*R. radicans* L. var. *rydbergii* Small". Hyppio treats the first two as synonymous (*T. radicans*) and the last as *T. rydbergii*. It is evident, however, from the distributions given by Muenscher coupled with the work of Gillis (*Rhodora* 73: 72–159, 161–237, 370–443, 465–540, 1971) which included typification of the epithet *radicans*, that in current nomenclature these are, respectively, *R. radicans* L. subsp. *radicans*, *R. radicans* subsp. *negundo* (Greene) McNeill, and *R. radicans* subsp. *rydbergii* (Small ex Rydb.) McNeill.

In some other cases Hyppio has been much more conservative in maintaining Muenscher's nomenclature than one would expect, as, for example, when he retains white cockle or white campion in the genus *Lychnis* (as *L. alba*) rather than placing it, as is usual to-day, in the genus *Silene*, beside its oft-confused look-alike, night-flowering catchfly (*S. noctiflora*). (In *Silene*, it has to be called *S. latifolia* Poiret (= *S. pratensis* (Rafn) Godron & Gren.)). One evident failure to correct Muenscher's nomenclature is in the genus *Euphorbia*, where *E. maculata* L. applies to what Muenscher calls *E. supina*, whereas his *E. maculata* is correctly known as *E. nutans* Lag.

In any revision, however, errors and omissions are inevitable, and are not the final arbiter of its worthwhileness. A wider issue is whether Muenscher's taxonomic treatment is not so dated as to make a mere nomenclatural appendix inadequate for present-day needs. In part, this is the case. For example,

Muenscher makes no reference to the widespread prairie and northern plains dock *Rumex pseudonatronatus* Borbas. He includes *Polygonum erectum*, which appears to be a sporadic plant of native habitats to-day, yet omits the abundant, weedy *P. achoreum* Blake. The two species are well distinguished by Mitchell and Dean (1978, *N.Y. State Museum Bulletin* 431: 38–42) and Muenscher clearly illustrates the former, even though it seems certain that in describing the habitat and distribution he is referring to the latter. Likewise, although Muenscher lists only one dark-flowered dog-strangling vine or swallow-wort, which he calls *Cynanchum nigrum* (incidentally, another incorrect name that is over-looked), two readily confused species seem almost as widely distributed in the northeastern U.S. and adjacent Canada; in the segregate genus *Vincetoxicum*, these are correctly known as *V. nigrum* (L.) Moench and *V. rossicum* (Kleopov) Barbarich (cf. McNeill, 1981, *Le Naturaliste canadien* 108: 237–244.). Further examples can readily be found, particularly in long-confused genera such as *Atriplex* and *Chenopodium*.

Yet, for all its defects, Muenscher's work remains a very usable classic. It is one of the few weed manuals with identification keys; the coverage is good; the brief descriptive and distributional notes are helpful and the historic approach to weed dissemination, "ecology", and control still has a relevance to our understanding of weed biology. The book is not dead. This reissue, for all its faults, is probably worth its price, even in U.S. dollars. What would be even better, however, would be a third edition, or a new book unashamedly building on Muenscher, that would take account of recent advances in our understanding of the variation, taxonomy and distribution of the weeds of the Northern United States and Canada. Perhaps Dr. Hyppio will one day provide us with it.

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ENVIRONMENT

Nature Conservation Day

Compiled by T. J. Beechey and B. L. Raad. 1981. Proceedings of a symposium, 26 March 1980. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto. 86 pp. \$2.

This seminar featured speakers from provincial and other agencies concerned with protection of natural areas. Absence of participants from Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service (National Wildlife

Sanctuaries) is notable. These agencies play a role in nature protection within Ontario, and could have added a national perspective to the discussions.

The Minister's message stated that the seminar was a success, with the objectives of increasing awareness, acquainting different agencies with mandates and programs, commemorating achievements, identifying

needs and problems, and exploring innovative approaches. However, the true success of the seminar should be best judged by problems solved and innovations adopted. With the proceedings published one year after the seminar, actions taken within that year could have been summarized.

The Director of the Parks and Recreational Areas Branch presented a short historical introduction to provincial parks and related legislation and policies.

mandate of the Conservation Authorities was logically connected with their activities in natural area preservation. The discussion of joint projects by the Authorities, the Conservancy and the Federation were especially pertinent to the seminar's objectives. Six representatives of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (other than the Projects Director) also made presentations. The information in these presentations was in sufficient detail to permit the participants



Ferguson, Michael A. D. 1983. "Nature conservation day, eds I. J. Beechey and B. L. Raad [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 97(2), 243-244.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.354997>.

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