

related species, subspecies, and genera that are frequently grown in British gardens, pollination data, and sources of information.

The most important feature of this third edition is, however, the fact that the taxonomy and nomenclature of *Flora Europaea* (1964–1980) have been largely adopted, thus, as stated by the

authors, “hastening the approach to a highly desirable uniformity”, a most welcome feature.

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Botanical Studies in the Lake Hazen Region, Northern Ellesmere Island, Northwest Territories, Canada

By James H. Soper and John M. Powell. 1985. Publications in Natural Sciences, No. 5. National Museums of Canada, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa. vi + 67 pp., illus. Free.

Until recently, the region of upper Ellesmere Island belonged to one of the least-known parts of Canada. Yet, considering its position above the 82nd parallel, it is a region of boundless scenic beauty, and of a surprisingly rich floristic diversity and wildlife. In one word, an oasis of serenity and unspoiled, undisturbed wilderness. No wonder most of the upper Ellesmere Island area was proposed as Canada's, and the world's, most northern national park a few years ago.

It is for this reason that Soper's and Powell's monograph on the botany of Lake Hazen Region is a timely and welcome contribution to the sparse knowledge about an area which is in the forefront of the present public interest.

The booklet offers more than its title heralds. Although a prevalent part of its 67 pages is preoccupied by botany, the first 18 pages are devoted to what can be summarized as natural history of the Lake Hazen region. This section includes information on Topography, Geology, Glaciation, Geomorphology, Soils, and Climate. Valuable is a chapter on the history of botanical (actually biological) explorations of northern Ellesmere Island. It covers in much detail the early pioneer and subsequent more systematic research activity of the European, American, and Canadian explorers.

The botanical information contained in the volume is a summary and a follow-up of investigations carried out by the authors between 1957–59. They were fortunate to participate in the “Expedition Hazen” which was part of the already historical, International Geophysical Year.

Although preliminary reports on the Lake Hazen work were published shortly after the project's termination, the present book represents a somewhat belated yet much appreciated summary of the authors' old research. It is introduced by an annotated list of an astonishing number (125) of vascular plant species, followed by a thorough description of 12 of the most typical habitats and the composition of their plant communities. Decently reproduced, excellent black-and-white photographs illustrate better than many words each of the habitats within the often bizarre Lake Hazen landscape. Included is information on seasonal progress of flowering and on phytogeographical affinities of the vascular plants. The monograph is equipped with a comprehensive bibliography on northern Ellesmere Island.

The publication may serve as an excellent, and so far the only, comprehensive guide to the natural history, basic ecology and flora of the Lake Hazen area, provided that the user recognizes the plants, or is equipped with a key to arctic plant identification. Due to the nature and objectives of the booklet, the interesting and rich world of Lake Hazen animals is not included. The prospective visitor will have to look to other more or less direct sources.

It is with regret that this excellent piece of work was published as a soft-cover cheaply-stapled brochure, suitable more for various archive shelves rather than for the general public where it could provide an excellent educational service.

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