

REVIEW

Gleason, Henry A.[†] and Arthur Cronquist[†]. *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*. 2004, the seventh printing of the second edition of 1991. xlvii + 993 pages. ISBN 0-89327-365-1. Hardbound, \$69; The New York Botanical Garden Press, Bronx, NY 10458. www.nybg.org, and click on *Science* to get to the ordering page.

This is **not** intended to be a revised edition that could be labeled edition 3. That fact is made abundantly clear, on the title page, in the Foreword, and even on the spine: “1991” and don’t you forget it!

But it is very different. First of all, there’s a table of contents; a Foreword that explains the printing history, and then a biographical sketch of the lives of both authors, with photographs. The glossary, which in past printings preceded the keys, has been moved to the back, just before the two indexes, one to common names, a second to scientific names. Page size has been increased slightly, in order to permit some additions and corrections, but the internal pagination (the actual treatments) is unaltered. So, *Adiantum* is still on page 16, but now there’s a key to the two species covered, which had somehow been overlooked in earlier printings. The half page of nomenclatural innovations of earlier printings is removed; there are no new names published here.

Quite a number of botanists contributed remarks on typographical errors that were scattered through previous printings. There were instances where the two parental species of hybrids were not in alphabetical order, as in *Isoetes*, and these kinds of slips are now corrected.

But *Scirpus* still has the same circumscription as before. This is but one of dozens of places where modern thinking would call for half a dozen genera—they’re not here, though their synonyms under *Trichophorum*, *Schoenoplectus*, *Isolepis*, *Blysmus*, and *Bolboschoenus* are given. At this point, you’re thinking, “Oh dear, what happened to traditional *Aster*?” and the answer is, “It’s just the same as before, without even the addition of generic names adopted in modern revisions.” As I said, this is not a revised, third edition. It is a corrected and improved printing.

The eagle-eyed reader might notice that authors for binomials have been “improved.” In earlier printings, the validating author was often not cited, as in *Carex granularis* Muhl., number 131 on p. 724 of both printings. The species was in fact described and published by Willdenow in Berlin, from material sent to him by Muhlenberg from Pennsylvania, and the specific epithet was suggested by Muhlenberg. It therefore should be cited as *Carex granularis* Muhl. ex Willd., or if shortened, then simply *Carex granularis* Willd. Arthur Cronquist never liked this procedure, and never used it—that is to say, he shortened the authorship citation, but contrary to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. A quick glance will show that the manual is now sprinkled with such changes, which are in accord with the Code. (This same species in Voss’ Michigan Flora, volume 1, page 301, is given as *Carex granularis* Willd., as you would expect from an author who was also an editor of the ICBN for so many years.)

And consider *Fraxinus profunda*—earlier printings had its authorship as *Fraxinus profunda* (Bush) Bush. Not true. Bush originated the name at some unspecified infraspecific rank, and a few years later Britton (not Bush) elevated the epithet to specific rank, and it is therefore to be cited as *Fraxinus profunda* Bush ex Britton, as given in this new printing.

Changes, alterations, corrections. Yes. Hundreds of them. Enough to justify buying the seventh printing? Yes, I think so. And the New York Botanical Garden is a running a special combined offer: The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist’s Manual is normally offered at \$125, but if you order both the Companion and the Manual, they’ll sell you the two for \$150 plus shipping.

The last page of the book, unnumbered, is an especially poignant photograph. Turn there first, when you have the new book in hand. The picture is explained in the Foreword on page v.

Patricia and Noel Holmgren made all this happen; the botanical community is very much in their debt.

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