



Review: [Untitled]

Reviewed Work(s):

Oklahoma Flora. by Thomas R. Stemen; W. Stanley Myers
C. E. Olmsted

Botanical Gazette, Vol. 98, No. 4. (Jun., 1937), p. 872.

Stable URL:

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Botanical Gazette is currently published by The University of Chicago Press.

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The monograph is divided into two parts, general and special. There are two chapters devoted to general considerations, such as the fields in which the chromatographic method is useful, the history of its use, the fundamental theoretical basis of chromatography, the relation between molecular constitution and chromatogram formation, and the details of the method as used with both colored and colorless compounds. The special part, presented in three chapters, takes up the application of the method to naturally occurring pigments, such as chlorophyll, porphyrins, bile pigments, carotenoids, naphthaquinones and anthraquinones, flavines, pterine, anthocyanins, and other unclassified pigments; to artificial pigments and dyes; and to colorless and weakly colored substances. Among the latter are found various aliphatic and aromatic compounds, benzol derivatives, polycyclic compounds, certain plant and animal poisons, alkaloids, enzymes, vitamins, hormones, tannins, and pharmaceutically useful drugs.

Several hundred citations and author and subject indexes make the work extremely useful and usable. It will commend itself particularly to students of the polyene carotenoids, and hormones.—C. A. SHULL.

Oklahoma Flora. By THOMAS R. STEMEN and W. STANLEY MYERS. Oklahoma City: Harlow Publishing Corporation, 1937. Pp. xxix+706. Figs. 494. \$6.00.

Amateur botanists and beginning students of biology and botany in Oklahoma should be grateful to the two teachers in the Oklahoma City school system who have expanded their earlier work, *The Spring Flora of Oklahoma*, into the present volume. It seems to be intended primarily for the use of students. Over 1600 species are keyed and described, of which almost 500 are illustrated with original and borrowed line drawings. Tables listing edible, poisonous, and drug plants, those that should be protected, those causing hay fever, and those useful in fish culture and for transplanting are included, to appeal to the general public.

Professional botanists will regret that, in a work of such a pretentious nature, no attempt has been made to treat any grasses, sedges, or rushes, even though other species with only one known station in the state are included. Unfortunately the authors have been inconsistent in this latter respect, so that even though the work is said to be complete, numerous species have been omitted for which herbarium specimens are easily available. It is to be hoped that in any revision the authors will use all important available collections as a basis.—C. E. OLMSTED.