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LOCAL FLORAS OF THE SOUTHWEST, 1920–1980: 
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Janice E. Bowers¹

ABSTRACT.— Local floras, that is, plant lists for relatively small areas, are widely scattered, often unpublished, and difficult to locate. Over 100 local floras from the southwestern United States (Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah) are listed and briefly annotated.

Much of the southwestern United States is well known botanically. Comprehensive, statewise floristic manuals have been prepared for Arizona (Tidestrom and Kittell 1941, Kearney and Peebles 1942, 1960), Colorado (Harrington 1954), New Mexico (Martin and Hutchins 1981), the Sonoran Desert (Shreve and Wiggins 1964), the Mojave Desert (Jaeger 1941), Utah (Welsh and Moore 1973), and the Intermountain Region (Holmgren and Reveal 1966, Tidestrom 1925, Cronquist et al. 1972, 1977). Floristic studies on a smaller scale have also contributed to knowledge about plant distribution in the Southwest, but these briefer works are often unpublished and difficult to locate. Botanical bibliographies such as those compiled by Ewan (1936) and Schmutz (1978) for Arizona, Hoffman and Tomlinson (1966) for Colorado, Christensen (1967a, 1967b) for Utah, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1977a, 1977b, 1977c) for Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico have not emphasized local floras.

The objective of this paper is to provide a list of readily accessible local floras for the Southwest, including Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and Colorado. Only plant lists intended to be more or less complete floras are included. Lists restricted to single life forms (such as cacti, woody plants, fungi, or ephemerals) are not included, nor are manuals that cover state-sized regions. Only the most recent flora for an area is listed. Both published and unpublished floras are included, with the reservation that unpublished lists must be readily accessible, either from the responsible agency or through the interlibrary loan programs of major universities. Floras published before 1920 are not included because they are seldom complete and can be difficult to locate. Arizona floras discussed by Bowers (1981) are included here as bibliographic citations only.

ARIZONA


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Leithliter, J. B. 1980. Vegetation and flora of the Chiricahua Wilderness Area. Tempe, AZ: Arizona State Univ. Unpublished thesis. Lists 300 taxa for 72.5 km². Reviews history of the area; describes topography, geology, soils and climate. Compares vegetation of study area to that of nearby mountain ranges. Annotations of the plant list include synonymy, common names, relative abundance, vegetation type, habitat, elevational range, phenology, and collection numbers. Provides small-scale topographic and geologic maps.


COLORADO


BRADLEY, R. A. W. 1950. The vascular flora of Moffat County, Colorado. Boulder, CO: Univ. of Colorado. Thesis. Lists 511 taxa for 1,231,606 ha; annotations of the plant list include collector, collection location and number, elevation, and habitat. Describes topography, history of plant collection; discusses vegetation zones. Lists plants occurring in Colorado only in Moffat County. Includes location map of study area and photos of vegetation types.


Weber, W. A. 1976. Rocky Mountain flora. 5th ed. Boulder, CO: Univ. of Colorado Press. Lists 1600 taxa; annotations include common names, relative abundance, habit, and brief species descriptions. Reviews botanical collection; describes plant communities; discusses plant geography of the Rocky Mountains. Provides keys to species, glossary of botanical terms; includes small-scale location map and photographs and line drawings of many species.

NEVADA


Clokey, I. 1951. Flora of the Charleston Mountains, Clark County, Nevada, Berkeley, CA: Univ. of California Press. Lists 699 taxa for 170,000 ha; annotations include habitat, associated species, phenology, local distribution, geographical range, elevational range, collector and collection number, synonymy, type locality. Describes botanical collection, geology, climate; discusses endemism, geographical affinities of the flora. Contains keys to species.


Holmgren, A. H. 1942. Handbook of the vascular plants of northeastern Nevada. Logan, UT: Utah State Agricultural College. Lists 1205 taxa; annotations include common names, forage value, local and regional distribution, habitat, relative abundance, synonymy, and elevational range. Discusses botanical exploration, climate, physiography. Includes keys to species.


NEW MEXICO

BOWERS: SOUTHWEST FLORA BIBLIOGRAPHY


Manthey, G. T. 1977. A floristic analysis of the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge and the Ladron Mountains, Albuquerque, NM: Univ. of New Mexico. Unpublished thesis. Lists 728 taxa. Annotations of plant list include plant community, common name, phenology, and elevational range. Discusses topography, geology, climate, soils, and land use. Discusses floristic affinities, community integrity of plant communities, geographic patterns of each community. Describes plant communities, listing major and common species, habitat, elevational range, and local distribution of each. Lists taxa which terminate their distribution in or near the study area. Includes keys to species and a topographic map of the study area.


Lists 369 taxa for 19,430 ha; annotated with common names, habitat, plant community. Describes topography, soils, climate; discusses biogeographical influences and disturbance patterns. Describes plant communities. Includes checklists of amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds.


Utah


Meyer, S. E. 1976. Annotated checklist of the vascular plants of Washington County, Utah. Las Vegas, NV: Univ. of Nevada. Unpublished thesis. Lists 1207 taxa for 621,762 ha; annotations of plant list include habitat, local distribution, floristic component, synonymy, community type, collector, and collection date and number. Reviews history of botanical collection. Discusses physiography and geology; divides county into six topographic units and discusses the elevational range, accessibility, geology, and watersheds of each. Describes climate and soils and discusses climatic and edaphic factors affecting plant distribution. Describes community types and plant associations; discusses impact of grazing and land use on vegetation. Defines floristic components.


Describes topography and geology. Discusses history of botanical collection; vegetation types, correlating vegetation with substrate, climate, and grazing; and floristic elements and relation of flora to paleoclimate. Includes photographs of vegetation.


Literature Cited


U.S. Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah. Research Paper No. 32.


——. 1977b. Annotated bibliography of natural resources information: southern Utah. FWS/OBS-77/34.


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