

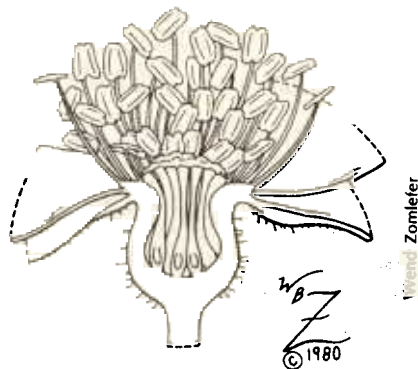
BOOK REVIEW

by Bijan Dehgan

Common Florida Angiosperm Plant Families, Part I, Wendy B. Zomlefer. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, 107 pp. Privately published.

In the absence of a comprehensive flora of Florida (one is currently in preparation), the native plant enthusiast is thankful for any source of information helpful in identifying our state's myriad flowering plants.

Common Florida Angiosperm Plant Families by Wendy B. Zomlefer, biological illustrator at the Florida State Museum, is one such welcome contribution. Adapted from Ms. Zomlefer's master's thesis, the two-part work (a second volume will follow) is intended formally as a laboratory manual for taxonomy courses, but serves as a valuable reference for the non-specialist as well. Thirty-four families are treated in this first volume, grouped together by their phylogenetic associations. Another thirty-three will be covered in Part II.



Each family is illustrated with a full page, black-and-white plate drawn from one to several exemplars of the family native to Florida. The accompanying text includes a precise but concise technical description of the family, its size, distribution, economic importance, and Florida representatives. The collective characteristics of the family members which occur in Florida are described under separate heading. Additional descriptive text elaborates on salient morphological features and discusses pollination ecology within and evolution of the family. Literature references are provided for each family, thus allowing the interested reader to obtain further information. A thorough glossary of technical terms is included at the end of the book. Ms. Zomlefer begins her text with an edifying introduction which

includes a brief but fascinating discussion of the "brass tacks" of botanical illustration.

Of course, the highlight of the volume is its illustrations, all of which are outstanding. Vegetative and floral characteristics are amply detailed at both the macro- and micromorphological level.

My sole criticism of the volume is the omission of a key to the families treated, a feature which would only add to the utility of the book.

As anyone who has taken (or taught) a course in basic plant taxonomy can attest, the learning of plant taxa is facilitated by an appreciation of the plant kingdom at the family level. Once the diagnostic characters of a particular family are understood, one can see how these characters re-occur in related genera and species. Consequently, the task of identifying any one particular plant then becomes easier. While the book is obviously slanted for an audience with at least a grounding in botany, the layperson will find **Common Florida Angiosperm Plant Families** an indispensable appendix to regional wildflower manuals.

Available by mail-order from: Wendy B. Zomlefer, 603-D 4th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601. \$8.50 for Florida residents (includes tax and postage), \$8.15 for out-of-state (includes postage).

Items for sale by your friendly Florida Native Plant Society:

Florida Botanical and Ecological

Common Florida
Angiosperm
Families

Part I



\$8.50 (FL residents:
includes sales tax);
\$8.15 (out-of-state
orders).

Prices include postage.

Wendy B. Zomlefer
603-D N.E. 4th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32601

ADDRESS CORRECTION

The designation "N.E." was inadvertently left off Wendy Zomlefer's street address in the review of her book in the last issue of **The Palmetto**. If the post office sent back your order for her book, please re-address your request as above.